

Hafa Adai!

Domenech delivers \$5.6M for NMI. **PAGE 2**
‘USDA still concerned about slow food stamp spending’ **PAGE 7**

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75¢

Public warned of tainted lettuce

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a health warning yesterday against eating romaine lettuce due to E. coli fears.

ON IMPERIAL PACIFIC RESORT PROJECT

IPI, Pacific Rim, DPAC talk extension

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinare@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is seriously weighing to extend its Aug. 31, 2018, deadline for its hotel-resort/casino in Garapan. The Hong Kong-based invest-

tor remains in talks with its construction prime contractor and the Development Plan and Advisory Committee.

In a report to the Commonwealth Casino Commission yesterday, IPI executive Eric Poon said they are continu-

See IPI on Page 4

CSC chair asks Torres to replace him

» **Says governor assured his reappointment 4 months ago, but no action until now**



Herman R. Deleon Guerrero gestures as he explains during an interview yesterday about his request for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to appoint someone to replace him as chairman of the Civil Service Commission.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

» **E. coli bacteria found in produce could lead to gastroenteritis**

In a health advisory channeled through the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., CDC warned consumers, restaurants,

and retailers of an ongoing widespread, multi-state outbreak of gastroenteritis caused by romaine lettuce exposed to E. coli bacteria that can cause

severe gastroenteritis.

Based on the information collected by CDC, the supply of romaine lettuce from Yuma, See LETTUCE on Page 4



FLAME TREE ARTS FESTIVAL STARTS

The Department of Public Safety posts the colors as dignitaries and community members sing the national anthem during the opening ceremony of the 37th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival at the Civic Center. The festival is expected to last until Sunday.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

AFTER ALMOST A MONTH

Driver in fatal hit-and-run yet to be charged

» **OAG has also yet to re-file charges against driver in 2016 fatal 3-car crash in Garapan**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's been almost a month but the driver of a car who was reportedly involved in the

hit-and-run that killed a pedestrian in As Mahetog has yet to be arrested and charged.

When asked for an update in the investigation, Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard said yesterday that See DRIVER on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The CNMI played host last week to the first underwater robotics workshop in the world.

PAGE 10



NATION

A man believed to be one of California's most feared serial killers is arrested.

PAGE 22



LIFE & STYLE

Deadpool, the foul-mouthed mercenary, is back with a sequel.

PAGE 28



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Local

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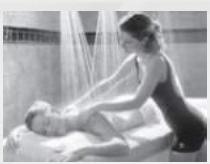
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Domenech delivers \$5.6M for NMI

Doug Domenech, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular and International Affairs, and Office of Insular Affairs director Nik Pula met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres this week and signed over \$5,649,042 in funding for the territory.

The funding came from the capital infrastructure program, compact impact funds,

and the technical assistance program.

"I am pleased to have conferred with the governor and key officials [on] Saipan as well as to have visited some of Saipan's sites and programs that Interior has supported for the people of the CNMI," said Domenech. "Although your islands are physically distant from

Washington, D.C., I assure you that [Interior] Secretary [Ryan] Zinke and I both do our best to share your issues and concerns at the highest levels possible within the administration."

Domenech started his visit on Saipan with a trip to the Garapan Public Market. He also participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for several

recently completed water distribution and improvement projects funded through the Office of Insular Affairs for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

In celebration of National Park Week, Domenech visited the American Memorial Park—a "living" memorial with a variety of outdoor

Continued on Next Page

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activities in honor of those who gave their lives during the Marianas Campaign of World War II.

Domenech closed out his visit to Saipan by attending the Micronesia Islands Forum where he met with island leaders from the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Projects funded in the CNMI for fiscal year 2018 are listed below. Unless otherwise indicated, funds are provided through the Capital Infrastructure Program.

Compact Impact Funds (\$2,309,362) to defray costs borne by the CNMI govern-



Domenech

ment for social and public services used by migrants from the freely associated states of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau. The compact impact funds will be distributed among several public service providers as follows:

- The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.: Hospital, Clinics, Guidance Center - \$919,916
- Division of Youth Services - 10,931
- Department of Public Safety - \$262,049

- Department of Corrections - \$416,151
- Public Defenders Office - \$39,216
- Northern Marianas College - \$41,355
- Public School System - \$204,905

- Karidat Social Services - \$50,667
- Judiciary - \$113,072
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services - \$276,470

- The Department of Public Works (\$1,693,826) for the construction of an environmentally compliant landfill on the islands of Tinian (\$846,913) and Rota (\$846,913), to include a transfer station, for the disposal of non-hazardous solid waste.

- CNMI 702 CIP Program Administration Office (\$328,624) to fund the Program Administration Office, an entity independent of the

Department of Public Works to manage implementation of CIP projects from inception to completion.

- Commonwealth Utilities Corp. (\$101,550) for the maintenance of infrastructure projects, including repairs, improvements, and rehabilitation activities or equipment purchases related to the maintenance of federally or locally funded projects. Earlier in 2018, OIA awarded a related grant of \$5 million for power plant cleanup on Saipan to help the CNMI government meet court-ordered requirements to meet certain environmental standards necessary to

protect the public.

- Insular ABC's Initiative (\$1,000,000) to support the Insular Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms' health and safety initiatives to address critical deferred maintenance issues through the CNMI Public School System.
- Commonwealth Ports Authority (\$215,680) to acquire additional automated

passport control units for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The automated units will ensure that eligible travelers are able to clear U.S. Customs and Border Protection formalities quickly, securely, and without preregistration. Funds for this project were provided through the OIA Technical Assistance Program. (PR)

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Remengesau: We are dying slowly

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The vision and capabilities of enhanced telehealth and telemedicine as an ideal setup for Micronesia was the focus of the second day of the 23rd Micronesia Island Forum at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan yesterday.

The forum's Regional Health Committee touted the benefits of telehealth and telemedicine, citing the concept adopted in some Micronesian islands such as Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Guam to name a few.

RHC stressed that an enhanced telehealth and telemedicine capability is ideal for Micronesia, but some governmental policies interfere with telehealth capabilities, limiting its effects in other areas.

Telehealth is the process of using technological advancements in communication to deliver medical services.

Pohnpei Hospital, for example, coordinates with the Hokkaido Cancer Center in Japan for diagnostic information. Digitized images are sent to the center for diagnosis. Guam Community Health Center, on the other hand, works with the Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña said in an interview that telehealth issues are concerning.

"It's not the technology; we already have fiber optic [cables]," she said. "The issue is that we are trying to know that there are layers of policies that are preventing providers from providing those telehealth services."

According to Muña, sustainability is an issue with telehealth.

"If we are going to provide these services here, there's got

to be money basically streaming to the provider and also to us, so that we can continue to provide it. The problem is there isn't," she said.

Recognizing these problems, Muña suggested that the forum pass a resolution that enhances telehealth capabilities in the Pacific.

"Endorse in principle as a matter of regional priority, and to invest jurisdiction resources to enhance and expand telehealth/telemedicine capabilities and capacities appropriate to the needs of each jurisdiction; and support periodic assessments and evaluations of such efforts in terms of cost, sustainable financing, pass policy and legislation which creates a telehealth-friendly environment, and ensure relevant provider/partner coordination," Muña said in her presentation to the MIF.

We are dying slowly

Commenting on Muña's presentation, Palau President Tommy Remengesau said that those of Micronesian descent are "dying slowly," due to dietary imbalances on the islands.

"...Dying [a] suicidal death that is self-inflicted," he said. "It's sad, but the population around the world are dying because of hunger and poverty, but here in our part of the world we are dying of overeating and bad diet and a lot of this has to do with imported food," he added.

Muña's presentation also identified the leading causes of deaths in Micronesia: cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and lung disease.

"[Analyzing data], specifically in Palau, unemployed fishermen are in better health than those who are in the government [and] in the private sector who can afford to buy all these...food. It is certainly a lifestyle," said Remengesau.

According to Muña's presentation, in the CNMI alone,

the body-mass index of youths since the year 2000 baseline has gone up in 2017. Cancer and cardiovascular-related deaths have also risen in the 30-69 age groups, while lung-related deaths have gone down

significantly. Tobacco usage in both forms—chewing and smoking—have also reportedly decreased since the year 2000 baseline. Similar results have been noted for alcohol use among the youth.

hours later.

Investigators believed then that alcohol was a factor in the case.

Meanwhile, the OAG has yet to re-file the charges against Yi Wang, a 53-year-old music teacher who was found at fault by traffic investigators in the three-car crash near Sugar King Park in Garapan on Jan. 7, 2016 that killed one person and injured two others.

The Superior Court dismissed the charges against Wang on Jan. 15, 2016, after then-assistant attorney general Emily S. Cohen moved to dismiss the case without prejudice, which means the OAG may re-file the case in the future.

A police officer told *Saipan Tribune* earlier that police investigation in the case has already been completed.

Romeo Sumilang, a 53-year-old construction worker who was passenger of a pickup truck, was tossed into the air during the incident. He died in the hospital a few days later.

one to the CSC board for quite a while now.

"The governor has to pay attention to the Civil Service Commission because it's mandated by the [CNMI] Constitution and the Covenant," Deleon Guerro said.

He underscored the importance of CSC in providing direction to employment and rights of government employees.

"The Civil Service Commission should not be overlooked," he added.

At present, CSC has seven members, including Deleon Guerro.

Despite that, he said they still have a quorum problem because other members do not show up for meetings for various reasons.

Deleon Guerro began serving as CSC chairman in 2012.

"CSC before was going down, but through the legislation of Heinz Hofsneider, we revived it," said Deleon Guerro, adding that they have established an office and are now providing training to Civil Service employees, among other things.

Deleon Guerro also asked Torres to increase the Civil Service budget that was cut almost in half in fiscal year 2018.

"We are trying to recoup that loss through supplemental budget requests but the possibility is dim," he said.

Deleon Guerro served as senator from 1977 to 1994.

LETTUCE

From Page 1

Arizona could be contaminated with E. coli.

Last week, CDC reported 35 illnesses in 11 states but no reports of deaths.

This comes in the wake of a public warning last Friday from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Public Health/Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program and Epidemiology Laboratory Capacity Programs about an ongoing spread of norovirus-like gastroenteritis or stomach flu in the region, a condition that stems from the inflammation of the stomach and intestines which usually result from bacterial toxins. The warning was released after cases of diarrhea and vomiting were reported in the CNMI in past weeks.

CHCC public information officer Samantha Birmingham-Babauta said they are closely monitoring the situation.

"Our guidance was based off the CDC and USDA as we

do receive U.S. produce. But as far as our monitoring goes, we have not been impacted," she added.

CDC advises consumers not to buy or consume romaine lettuce that comes from the Yuma, Arizona growing region. They further warned that lettuce product often do not mention their source.

"Unless the source of the product is known, consumers with store-bought romaine lettuce that have been shipped from the United States or are U.S. brands should not be eaten and should throw it away, even if some of it was eaten and no one has gotten sick. This includes whole heads and hearts of romaine, chopped romaine, and salads and salad mixes containing romaine lettuce from Yuma, Arizona.

Consumers are encouraged to throw away any romaine lettuce if uncertain where it was grown or originated. Wash and sanitize drawers or shelves in refrigerators where romaine lettuce was stored.

firm based in Guam, agreed to take up the incomplete project left by IPI's former prime contractor, MCC International.

In response to casino commission chair Juan Sablan asking when the proposal would be submitted, Poon said the proposal should be ready sometime in May 2018.

Pacific Rim president Keith Stewart declined to comment on the status of their discussions since he said their main focus is completing the project and he did not wish to "overstep boundaries."

Poon indicated in his report that, as of April 23, 2018, completion percentage for Imperial Pacific Resort was at 65

The same advice was given to restaurants and retailers not to serve or sell whole heads and hearts of romaine, chopped romaine, and salads and salad mixes containing romaine lettuce from Yuma, Arizona.

The public is advised to stay alert in the event contaminated romaine lettuce is sold in stores or served in restaurants in the CNMI. Please inform the Bureau of Environmental Health at (670) 664-4870/72/73 of such instances or by email to Bureau of Environmental Health director John Tagabuel at john.tagabuel@dph.gov.mp.

Symptoms of E. coli bacteria infection include getting sick with gastroenteritis 2-8 days (average of 3-4 days) after swallowing the germ, diarrhea that can be bloody, severe stomach cramps and vomiting. Most people recover within one week and some infections are very mild but others are severe or even life-threatening.

If symptoms of an E. coli infection is apparent, talk to your healthcare provider,

write down what you ate in the week before you started to get sick and assist public health investigators by answering questions about your illness.

To prevent E. coli infection, wash hands after using the restroom or changing diapers, before and after preparing or eating food, and after contact with animals, don't prepare food or drink for others when you are sick, don't cross-contaminate food preparation areas, thoroughly wash counters, cutting boards and utensils after they touch raw meat and finally, wash fruits and vegetables before eating unless the package says the contents have been washed.

To report a notifiable disease or possible E. coli infection, notify the territorial epidemiologist Dr. Paul White in the Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Program by email at surveillance@chcc.gov.mp or call the CHCC at (670) 234-8950.

of IPI to consult with both DPACs and Pacific Rim.

"They are trying to understand what needs to be done and when they think they are going to actually finish. I believe they are also trying to not restrict themselves to another date that cannot be met. I think it is smart of them to look at it and be truthful," he said, minutes after the casino commission recessed for lunch.

"By having a third-party group like the DPAC looking at what date [for discussion] is more realistic, I think the objective is to only finish [the project] but to finish it at the soonest and safest way," he added.

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The Superior Court dismissed the charges against Wang on Jan. 15, 2016, after then-assistant attorney general Emily S. Cohen moved to dismiss the case without prejudice, which means the OAG may re-file the case in the future.

The victim, a 38-year-old Chinese male, was hit and killed by the car, a sports utility vehicle, at the intersection of Chalan Pale Arnold Road and As Matetog near the Saipan Ice and Water Co. last April 1.

Police said that, according to a witness, the car's driver did not stop and kept driving south, then made a left turn to Mihaville in Garapan.

Police found the SUV seven

CSC

From Page 1

the Civil Service Commission since his term already expired last January.

Deleon Guerro said there have been several communications between him and Torres' office before and after January 2018 and they actually met last March 22, during which the governor stated he would re-appoint him, but there is no indication of such appointment to date.

"He gave me his assurance almost four months [ago]," Deleon Guerro said.

He did clarify, though, that although he is a busy man, he is still willing to serve another term with CSC.

In fact, Deleon Guerro said, although his term expired last January, he still participates in CSC meetings to ensure that there is a quorum, during which he acts as chairman because nobody has been appointed yet as his replacement.

Deleon Guerro intended to submit a letter to Torres yesterday to seek clarification whether he will be re-appointed or not.

Deleon Guerro suggested Torres to appoint someone as soon as possible so that CSC can continue to have meeting quorum and address vital issues, especially Civil Service employees' issues.

He reminded the governor that he has not appointed any-

OAG launches new website

The Office of the Attorney General has launched its new redesigned website at www.cnmoag.org.

The new website gives access to information on current issues and view activities of the Office of the Attorney General. The website also allows the downloading of forms such as the consumer protection complaint and child support enforcement forms.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan said, "The website has been a work in progress since I became attorney general. I am eager to provide the CNMI community and our government the opportunity to learn about the Office of the Attorney General and the services we provide."

Manibusan said the OAG receives many different inquiries and requests on a variety of issues. "The website provides a direct line of communication with our community."

The website features a hotline page and a hotline number for use in reporting violations of law and corruption. Manibusan encourages and invites citizens to use the website in search of information and to report illegal activities.

Other information is provided on the website such as the attorney general's annual report for the years 2015 to 2017. These reports are a compilation of the Office of the Attorney General's divisions and units that highlights the work, challenges, and accomplishments of the office.

For more information on the Office of the Attorney General website, log on to the website at www.cnmoag.org.

If you would like to obtain a copy of the 2017 Annual Report, contact Carla Torres at 237-7500 or via email at carla_torres@cnmoag.org. (PR)

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NMC sophomore wins business plan contest

A proposed business plan to build an affordable, accessible noodle restaurant targeting college students won first place at the recently held Business Plan Competition

sponsored by Northern Marianas College and the Commonwealth Development Authority.

The business plan, written and prepared by student Jeane

Bracken, earned her a \$1,000 scholarship provided by CDA. The competition was held on April 20, 2018.

Bracken is a third-year NMC business manage-

ment major. Her business plan focused on food options for college students. She observed that due to the location of the college, there were limited restaurant options for students that are both accessible and affordable. Her business plan was judged using the following criteria: executing a clear, engaging, and concise summary, pre-

sentation, documentation, and response to questions.

The judges included Joeten Enterprises manager Bo Palacios, director of CNMI Small Business Development Center Nicole Babauta, and Project Manager of N15 Architects Fred Camacho. Bracken said the scholarship will help pay for the cost of tuition in her pursuit of a

bachelor's degree. Bracken will be graduating this May with an associate's degree in accounting and intends to further her education to earn a bachelor's degree in business management.

When asked what she gained from the experience, she said the competition helped her to see the needs of the island more critically. (PR)

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Northern Marianas College student Jeane Bracken, standing fourth from right, won first place in the 2018 Business Plan Competition, which was sponsored by the Commonwealth Development Authority. Bracken was presented with a trophy and \$1,000 in scholarship money to use toward her baccalaureate degree. In the photo, standing left to right, include Debra Steed, director of the School of Business; Manuel A. Sablan, executive director CDA; Michael P. Camacho, business development specialist; Nicole Babauta, director of CNMI Small Business Development Center; Oscar C. Camacho, economic development analyst; Bo Palacios, Joeten Enterprises manager; Fred Camacho, project manager of N15 Architects; John Demapan, NMC student; and Barbara Hunter, School of Business instructor. Kneeling, left to right, are Jamie Lee, NMC student, and Tuan Manh Vo, NMC student.

NMC Career Fair to feature more than 40 companies

More than 40 companies have confirmed their participation at Northern Marianas Col-

lege's annual Career Fair that will be held on Friday, May 4, at the Saipan World Resort, Royal Taga Ballroom from 9am to 12pm.

These companies or organizations include Ace Professional Corp., Asia Pacific Hotel Inc., Century Tours Inc., Cha, Civil Service Commission-Office of Personnel Management, CNMI Scholarship Office, CNMI Public School System, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Commonwealth Utilities Corp., DCCA- Division of Youth Services, Delta Management Corp., Department of Public Lands, DFS Saipan, DHS U.S. Customs and Border Protection, DOL-Workforce Investment Agency Division, Ete Cafe, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, G4S, and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Other participants include IHOP Saipan, Imperial Pacific International, Joeten Enterprises Inc., Joeten Motor Co., Kalayaan Inc., Kanoa Resort, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, LSG Sky Chefs, Marianas Aviation Services, Marianas Medical Center, Marianas Pacific Distributors, Marianas Variety, Moylan's Insur-

ance Underwriters, No Ka Oi Termite & Pest Control Inc., Northern Marianas College Human Resources, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Pacific Trading Co., Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc., Paradise Dental Spa, PSG Professional Corp., Saipan Cares for Animals, Saipan World Resort, Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Program, Sorensen Media Group, and Triple J Saipan Inc.

The NMC Career Fair provides government agencies, private sector companies, and non-profit organizations that are looking to fill key vacancies within their organizations the opportunity to connect with prospective employees and job applicants. Organizations can also promote their summer jobs, internships, and career opportunities to NMC students and graduates.

To participate in NMC's Career Fair, companies are asked to contact Neda Deleon Guerrero at 237-6759 or email neda.dlgguerrero@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. Exhibit space is limited. (NMC)

GRANDVRIOR RESORT SAIPAN

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'USDA still concerned about slow food stamp spending'

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Even with the recently announced increase in food stamp eligibility and benefits, the Commonwealth will still leave over \$10 million unspent over the next three years, according to a new report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The department provided the information yesterday to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

Sablan asked for the updated spending projection, after the Commonwealth lifted eligibility standards and benefit

amounts earlier this month.

In March, Sablan had called for the Commonwealth to make more families eligible and to raise their monthly benefits after it was revealed the government was sitting on \$22.5 million in food stamp grant funds.

Commonwealth officials quickly announced they would make the changes. But the changes are not enough.

"According to [the CNMI's] own fiscal projections, there will likely be a significant under-utilization of appropriated funds," the Agricul-

ture Department reported. "Based on projections of the CNMI," USDA said, the surplus would be "approximately \$10,135,655 over the next three years."

And, the report added, "We did inform CNMI leadership that [the department] is still concerned."

In response to this latest report, Sablan insisted again that the Commonwealth government needs to increase spending of food stamp money.

"Congress appropriated this money, so families in the Marianas would have more

to eat," he said. "I appreciate that the Commonwealth made a few adjustments this month. But, clearly, it is not enough. The Agriculture Department remains concerned. I remain concerned."

"How do you explain to parents that there are millions of dollars to help feed their hungry children, but the Commonwealth will not use it?"

Slow spending

Sablan previously warned that the slow spending made it difficult to get five more years of increased food

stamp money for the Marianas into the new farm bill.

In the 2014 farm bill, U.S. Public Law 113-79, Sablan added \$32.5 million for the Marianas. That money raised the Marianas food stamp total for the current year from \$12.148 million to \$20.648 million.

But, Sablan said, Republicans writing the new farm bill told him, "Your government already has \$22.5 million unused, we cannot give you more money."

True to their word, when Republicans introduced a new,

five-year farm bill on April 12, there was no new money for the Marianas.

Sablan responded with a legislative proposal, H.R. 5478, to provide the new money he wanted for Marianas food stamps, but only when the Commonwealth spent down its surplus. Sablan said he aims to add his language when the farm bill goes to the House floor for a vote or later in the Senate.

"Ten years in Congress have taught me to keep working for a solution, even if the first answer is no," he said. (PR)

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Registration open for 2018 Corporate Challenge

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its 18th Annual Corporate Challenge on May 27, 2018 at the Minatchom Attao Pavilion in Susupe and is now accepting teams for registration. Aside from team building, the event aims to raise funds for the SCC Education Scholarships and similar programs. Deadline for registration is on May 11, 2018, at 5pm. Slots are limited to the first 14 registered teams. For more information, call 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. (PR)

tor@saipanchamber.com or visit www.saipanchamber.com. (PR)

Weightlifting federation to hold fundraiser

The CNMI Weightlifting Federation will hold its 1st Sports Fundraising event on Saturday, May 5, 2018, at the Roundhouse, Garapan Central Park, from 8am to 2pm. There will be food, drinks, books, arts, crafts, clothes, and many other items for sale. The event is being planned to become an annual fundraiser. (PR)

Management 'boot camps' set

The Saipan Chamber of

Commerce and Island Training Solutions will be offering a second session in the afternoon for the upcoming "Management Boot Camp," a two-part training seminar that teaches managers, team leaders, and aspiring line workers the essential skills to lead others in the workplace. The seminars will take place at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room on the third floor of Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315. Part 1 is set for Thursday, May 24, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm and Part 2 is set for Thursday, June 21, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. Registration fee for each course is \$50 per person for Chamber

members and \$55 per person for non-members. Reservations and advance payment are required, as seating is limited. To register, call (670) 234-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. (PR)

VA sets town hall meeting

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is having a town hall meeting in the CNMI, hosted by the Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System director Jennifer Gutowski. This will be to share information, hear feedback from veterans and to answer questions on VA healthcare. The town hall are for Saipan, Rota and Tinian:

■ Saipan: American Memorial Park theater on May 1, from 5pm to 6:30pm

■ Rota: The Mayor of Rota's conference room, May 2, from 9:30am to 12:30pm

■ Tinian: The Mayor of Tinian's conference room, May 3, from 9:30am to 11:30am.

All veterans, their families, survivors and any organization or individual who works with or on behalf of veterans are encouraged to attend.

Point of contact is Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. (PR)

Free seminar on STEP Program for small businesses

The CNMI Department of Commerce, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Development Authority, will be offering a free seminar focusing on the CNMI State Trade Expansion Program for small businesses that are interested in expanding their market through export. The training will be held at CDA boardroom in San Jose, first floor, today, April 25, 2018 from 9:30am to 11am. The CNMI STEP Program is a state-federal partnership, funded by a grant from the Small Business Administration. (PR)

SCS art show and writers showcase

The Saipan Community School invites the public to its SCS Annual Art Show and Young Writers Showcase on Friday, April 27, at 6pm in the SCS chapel. Student pieces for display range in complexity from Kindergarten through 8th grade. The SCS Young Writers Workshop will be displaying written work from Kindergarten all the way through the 8th grade. To learn more about SCS, contact principal Amanda Allen Dunn, via email at principal@saipancommunityschool.com, call 234-6687, or visit the school on Beach Road in Susupe. (PR)

OES registration information

The Oleai Elementary School will be accepting registration for new enrollees for school year 2018-2019:

■ Kindergarten: starting on April 16, 2018
■ 1st to 5th Grade: June 11, 2018

Students entering Kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30.

Registration forms are available at our main office. Documents can be submitted to the office on Mondays-Fridays between 1pm and 4:30pm. For more information or inquiry call our main office at 664-3942. (PR)

SSHS parent-teacher conferences

Saipan Southern High School will have its fourth quarter mid-progress parent-teacher conferences today, April 27, from 3pm to 5pm on campus. (PR)

Oleai Elementary School Cultural Day Raffle Prize Listing and Winning Ticket Numbers

Grand Prize		03747		Baby Grand Prize		04867	
1st	07364	16th	21232	31st	25293	46th	09606
2nd	30240	17th	05505	32nd	06470	47th	21679
3rd	08845	18th	25319	33rd	14449	48th	38601
4th	41123	19th	20459	34th	34177	49th	28335
5th	27419	20th	19629	35th	37864	50th	36807
6th	19928	21st	28843	36th	38267	51st	31150
7th	14415	22nd	41457	37th	21000	52nd	22458
8th	08783	23rd	06276	38th	33815	53rd	34183
9th	10178	24th	22688	39th	18613	54th	03326
10th	15517	25th	13646	40th	30452	55th	10414
11th	12047	26th	23622	41st	37273	56th	22754
12th	32089	27th	06875	42nd	17961	57th	30312
13th	30513	28th	00846	43rd	00706	58th	22901
14th	19829	29th	05994	44th	39570	59th	14301
15th	27486	30th	41486	45th	18104	60th	07816

OES PTSA, Parents & Students, Administration, Teachers & Staff, and Oleai School Community would like to thank all our sponsors for their generous contribution and continuous support in our children's education and making OES's 60th Year Cultural Day celebration a success!

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- Jet Holding
- Joanne M. Manuel
- Kanoa Resort
- Kylie's Bakery
- Latte Built (Gym)
- Laolao Bay Golf & Resort
- Let's Go
- Lucky D
- Magic Touch
- Mango Resort
- MARPAC, Inc.
- Modern Stationery
- Monika's Furniture
- Monster Pizza Pub
- Oleai Beach Bar & Grill
- Pacific Air Conditioning
- Pacific Amusement Inc.
- Pacific Islands Club
- Payton Thomas Pangilinan
- Pena House
- PHI Dan Dan
- ROIL SOIL
- Roselle Carreon
- New Royal Thai Massage
- Safety 1st Systems
- Saipan Vegas Resort
- Saipan Watch Repair Shop
- Santiago Tudela
- Sea Touch
- Shirley's Coffee Shop
- STAR ATV
- Surf Club
- Systems of Care
- The Shack
- Tony Roma's
- Tribe Marianas
- Triple J Five Star Wholesale
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Chili Cookoff tilt for Cinco de Mayo

VFW Post 3457 is hosting a Cinco de Mayo celebration featuring a Chili Cookoff on Saturday, May 5, at the VFW-Post's home in Garapan.

Co-sponsored by Pacific Trading, Inc., the community is invited to register their individual or group chili creation by calling Mariano Fajardo at 285-0613.

The judging for the Chili Cookoff will be done by representatives of the Marianas Young Professionals and will begin at 6:30pm at the VFW. There is a limit of 15 entries due to space, so the first 15 to register will be given priority. All 15 entrants will receive Cinco de Mayo-themed prizes.

Discounted drinks from Pacific Trading, Inc. will be available all night. Doors open at 4pm and there will be electrical outlets available to keep the chili fresh. This should be a fun event for all, so warm up your taste buds and head to the VFW for its Cinco de Mayo fiesta. The phone number to register is 285-0613. (PR)

Environmental Expo nets 1,000

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality hosted its 8th Annual Environmental Expo last Wednesday and Thursday as part of Environmental Awareness Month, attracting over 1,000 elementary school students from various schools in the CNMI.

Throughout the two-day event, students from grades four through six participated.

"The goal of the expo is basically to help kids understand that there are a number of environmental initiative going on in the CNMI and to give them ideas of the certain things that are going on," said Malarie Muña, Division of Coastal Resource Management communications specialist.

According to Muña, the

expo also doubled as a potential job expo.

"It's almost like a career expo too because it shows people that there are a number of different careers that you can get into in the environmental sector," she said.

The expo included 12 exhibitors from BECQ, Northern Marianas College, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

Throughout the expo, students were required to visit every exhibit and view a short lecture and activities offered by the exhibit's presenter.

The participants of the expo

included all the public elementary school students and students from Northern Marianas International School and Saipan Community School.

This was the first year that private school students were incorporated into the event.

Muña said the program normally reaches out to fourth through sixth graders because the goal is to start environmental preservation advocacy at a young age.

"Fourth, fifth, and sixth grade, that is mostly our audience for stuff like this because we basically want to show kids that there are different organizations and environmental initiatives out there and we also want to give them an idea of things they can aspire to be," she said. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, Hafa Adai Drainage 2, Garapan Fishing Dock, and CK District 2 Drain. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

8 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged eight Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of

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NMI hosts underwater robotics building workshop



Students from various high schools in the CNMI are paired together to construct underwater ROVs during the first Underwater Robotics workshop last Saturday at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Students from various high schools in the CNMI are paired together to construct underwater ROVs during the first Underwater Robotics workshop last Saturday at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

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Andrew Thaler explains the mechanisms of the underwater robots built during the first Underwater Robotics workshop last Saturday at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

It happened under the radar but the CNMI played host last week to the first underwater robotics workshop in the world.



A group of marine experts made their way to the CNMI to conduct the first underwater robotics workshop in the world, called Marine Ecology Via Remote Observation Workshop, where they taught facilitators and students how to build remotely operate vehicles (ROVs, also known as underwater drones or underwater robots).

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Pew Charitable Trust funded the \$15,000 workshop with the intent to teach facilitators how to construct an ROV and how to teach others to build one.

According to OpenROV chief ecologist and CEO of Blackbeard Biologic Andrew Thaler, the vision of the program is to have the expertise stay on island even when he and his team are long gone.

The Friends of The Mari-
Continued on Next Page



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Register now. Call Mae 235-6684

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute admits students of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the institute. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarships and loan programs, and other institute-administered programs.





Students from various high schools in the CNMI are paired together to construct underwater ROVs during the first Underwater Robotics workshop last Saturday at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The students test run the ROVs they built at the Smiling Cove Marina last Sunday.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The Okeanos Marianas crew accepts the ROVs last Sunday at the Smiling Cove Marina.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance accepts the ROV last Sunday at the Smiling Cove Marina.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

anas Trench's Lauri Peterka said the eight facilitators who were chosen to take part in the workshop were from all sectors in the community like non-profit, government, and education.

The facilitators then worked with 18 students selected from high school level and college/trade school level.

"It was about making sure that we had total community buy-in. We wanted to have every element of the community," Peterka said.

On the final day of the workshop, April 22, the students and facilitators were brought to the Smiling Cove Marina to test run the ROVs they built.

At the marina, the students, facilitators, and the recipients of the robots were able to take underwater photos and learn the controls of the ROVs.

The robots built during the workshop have been given permanent homes in different sectors of the community. The recipients of the nine ROVs were the Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance with Saipan Southern High School, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality with Northern Marianas College, Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport LTD., Northern Marianas Trades Institute, and Underwater World Guam with



The students test-run the ROVs they built at the Smiling Cove Marina last Sunday.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

University of Guam.

According to Peterka, the recipients of the ROVs were chosen on the judgment that the robots would be utilized, accessible to the community, and not just stored away in a shelf.

The ROVs can dive up to 100 meters, carry high-definition cameras, detect temperatures, and detect depth.

Peterka said the CNMI was chosen to host the workshop because there are a lot of marine research opportunities in CNMI.



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This advertisement has been brought to you by the CNMI Title V Maternal and Child Health Program through funds from the US Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA).



Coast Guard to do recruiting drive in the CNMI

HONOLULU, Hawaii— Following the highly successful recruiting trip conducted on Saipan last September, the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Coast Guard Academy will have recruiters and representatives visiting Saipan, Tinian and Rota on May 4-12, to meet with interested applicants.

On Saipan, they will be visiting Northern Marianas College, Kagman High School, Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Mount Carmel School, and Grace Christian Academy.

On Tinian and Rota, they will be visiting those islands' respective high schools.

Interested students, espe-

cially those in their senior year, should see their counselors to participate in these visits.

For those who have graduated high school, or would like more one-on-one time, the Coast Guard's representatives will be available at the following municipal offices from 1pm to 5pm: Saipan Mayor's office on May 7, 8, and 9; Tinian Mayor's Office on May 4; and Rota Mayor's Office on May 11. Walk-ins are welcome.

The U.S. Coast Guard is a military, multi-mission, maritime service within the Department of Homeland Security and one of the nation's five armed services. Its core roles are to protect the public, the environ-

ment and the U.S. economic and security interests in America's coasts, ports and inland waterways. Serving in the Coast Guard allows its members to travel worldwide, and duty stations include Guam, Hawaii, the mainland United States, the Caribbean, Europe, and the Middle East. As one of the five branches of the Armed Forces, all Coast Guard members earn competitive pay, benefits, and educational opportunities.

The requirements to enlist in the Coast Guard are:

- Be a U.S. citizen or a resident alien.
- Be between the ages of 17-31 (up to age 32 if qualified for attending guaranteed

'A' school) for active duty (If you are 17, you will need parental consent.).

■ Have a high school diploma. GEDs are accepted in special circumstances.

■ Have no more than three dependents.

■ Pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test.

■ Pass a military entrance medical exam.

You are eligible to apply for the Coast Guard Academy if you are:

- A U.S. citizen of sound moral character
- Unmarried with no dependents or financial debt
- 17-22 years of age on July

1 of the year of entry

■ A high school graduate or GED recipient (or will be prior to entry)

For more information, go to www.gocoastguard.com, or for the Coast Guard Academy, www.uscga.edu. (PR)

Regional assessment at NBG

SANTA RITA, Guam— A Regional Assessment is scheduled to be conducted on U.S. Naval Base Guam on May 1-4.

RASS is part of Commander Naval Installation Command's Navy security force shore assessment and certification cycle. A team from Joint Region Marianas will review all aspects of the installation's emergency services.

The Force Protection

Condition may be elevated requiring full ID card checks at the gates. Additionally, the Trusted Traveler program—a program that authorizes DoD ID card holders to escort guests onto NBG—may be suspended during the higher FPCON.

As part of the assessment, the NBG Giant Voice system may be activated, and residents in surrounding areas of the GV speakers may hear announcements. (PR)

Children's Mental Health Awareness Month

May 2018

Proclamation Signing Ceremony / Ribbon Cutting

Venue: Systems of Care Office
San Antonio (old CHCC dispensary)

Roadside Waving

4:00pm – 5:30pm
Venue: Atkins Kroll intersection

KKMP Radio Talk Show

7:30am – 8:30pm
(Awareness Month Updates)

Launch N' Learn

8:00am – 2:00pm
RSVP with Monissa Blas

KKMP Radio Talk Show

7:30am – 8:30am
Mental Health and Natural Helpers Program

Family Expo

9:00am – 2:00pm
Venue: Garapan Central Park

KKMP Radio Talk Show

7:30am – 8:30am
Appreciation Message

For more information, call the CHCC - CGC Systems of Care
at: (670) 664.4604 / 05 to 09



This ad was paid for by the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) - Children's Mental Health Initiative

Women's Summit ends with call to action

Church expands medical mission to Rota

Saipan-based church will expand its free medical services to Rota as part of their Medical Mission Outreach Program.

The Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ 4th Watch will conduct its quarterly medical mission on Rota this Saturday.

According to PMCC Saipan head minister Claire Javillionar, the medical mission is part of the church's Good Hands Ministry.

The event will be held in Sinapalo, next to 3 Kings store, from 3pm to 6pm and the entire community is welcome.

Services that will be offered include blood pressure check, glucose check, body massage, facials, and more.

Participants can also expect free snacks and refreshments, free giveaways, and free reading glasses for the first 30. (*Kimberly A. Bautista*)



MYPros mentors and Million Dollar scholars gather for the 10th "Mentor for a Meal" event in March 2018.

MYPros, Million Dollar Scholars inviting public to 'Decision Day'

On Tuesday, May 1, 2018, the Million Dollar Scholars, in partnership with the Marianas Young Professionals, will be hosting the first Million Dollar Scholars Decision Day at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, from 6pm to 9pm.

The community's young scholars will announce their colleges of choice and briefly explain why they chose those schools.

"Decision Day" happens every May 1 and is known in higher education as the last day students can choose which college they would like to attend in the fall.

This year will be the first time Decision Day will be held in the CNMI, and MYPROs and MDS will be honoring students by hosting an event to celebrate their decision to continue their education.

MDS is expecting 40-50 scholars to be in attendance, as well as their family and friends.

"We're trying to sell 175 tickets at the door to ensure all our students who are announcing this monumental decision for their life will be able to attend," said Events Committee chair Monique Sablan.

Tickets to the event, which costs \$30, will offset the cost of students attending.

MDS chair and founder Gerald Van Gils is hoping this event will encourage more students to return to the CNMI post-college graduation. "Our efforts aim to boost the morale of our scholars and inspire a sense of community belonging, which will help motivate the students to return home after completing their degrees. We hope to make this a an annual event for MDS and inspire more of our youth to pursue higher education."

Tickets to the event are \$30 and will be sold at the door, but RSVP online at the following link to reserve your seat: <http://mypros.org/>

The two-day 5th Annual Women's Summit, hosted by the CNMI Women's Association and Office of Women's Affairs, ended on March 27 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe with a call to action.

The summit adopted the International Women's Day theme of "Press for [Continued] Progress."

Featuring panel discussions, Q&A segments and personal stories, the summit brought together the voices and insights of a diverse range of participants from all three islands and speakers from the worlds of business, education, government, health, and ministry.

Featured panelists included Bishop Ryan Jimenez, Pastor Beth Nunez, and Sister Mary-Ann Hartmann ("Faith"); Vicky Benavente, Sid Seman, and Ross Manglona ("Women & the Workforce"); Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, Rose Pangilinan, and Frank Cabrera ("Women & Education"); Gloria Cavanagh, Velma Palacios, Mark Rabau-

liman, Nicole Babauta, and Shirley Sablan ("Women & the Economy"); Vice Speaker Janet Maratita, former representatives Ana S. Teregeyo, Maria "Malua" T. Peter, and Felicidad T. Ogumoro ("Women & Public Service"); Joyce M. Songsong, Dr. Glenda George, and Sarah Thomas-Nededog ("Women & Health"); and Chailang Palacios and Jackie Quitugua ("Women & Culture").

Ogumoro, who is also the CNMI Women's Association administrator and Women's Summit chair, said the outcome of this year's summit "is a result and reflection of the CNMI Women's Association's and the Women's Affairs Office's longstanding commitment to educating, empowering and supporting women."

Highlights of the summit included an open discussion on faith and prayer, and a call to action to empower, support and elect more female leaders into public office in 2022.

Other topics and statistics touched on women's impact

in the economy, equal pay and salary disparities between men and women, education attainment; dealing with loss, drugs, and depression; and taking care of one's physical and mental wellbeing.

In a galvanizing end to a momentous event, the audience was prompted with a call to action, "We are the ones we have been waiting for. The time is now."

Wide-ranging programming throughout the month of March (CNMI Women's Month) were designed to inspire action and fuel creative fires spanning leadership, entrepreneurship, the arts, health, and education.

The 5th Annual Women's Summit was sponsored by the CNMI Women's Association and the Women's Affairs Office, and was partially funded by the Community Services Block Grant, a sub-grant awarded by the DCCA Division of Youth Services through funds under the Office of Community Services, Department of Health and Human Services. (PR)



Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Airbag recall leaves more than 60,000 time bombs on our roads

If you were told you were driving a car with a bomb inside, would you pull over?

The Washington Post reports that more than 60,000 Honda vehicles on the road today have defective airbags that experts have referred to as "ticking time bombs," an airbag model regarded by safety experts as likeliest to cause serious injury or death. The owners of these vehicles are a small but stubborn subset defying what has been America's largest safety recall ever. It was initiated in 2008, and directed at Takata Corp., the Japanese manufacturer of the airbags. These owners have ignored the recall notices or never received them; many of the vehicles are older models that probably have changed hands.

The bomb analogy is dramatic but spot on. Worldwide, at least 22 people have been killed when airbags exploded and shot out shrapnel. Hundreds more motorists were seriously injured. The impacts that deployed the devices didn't have to be major—often they were fender benders. Drivers killed by the airbags have had injuries that resemble gunshot wounds.

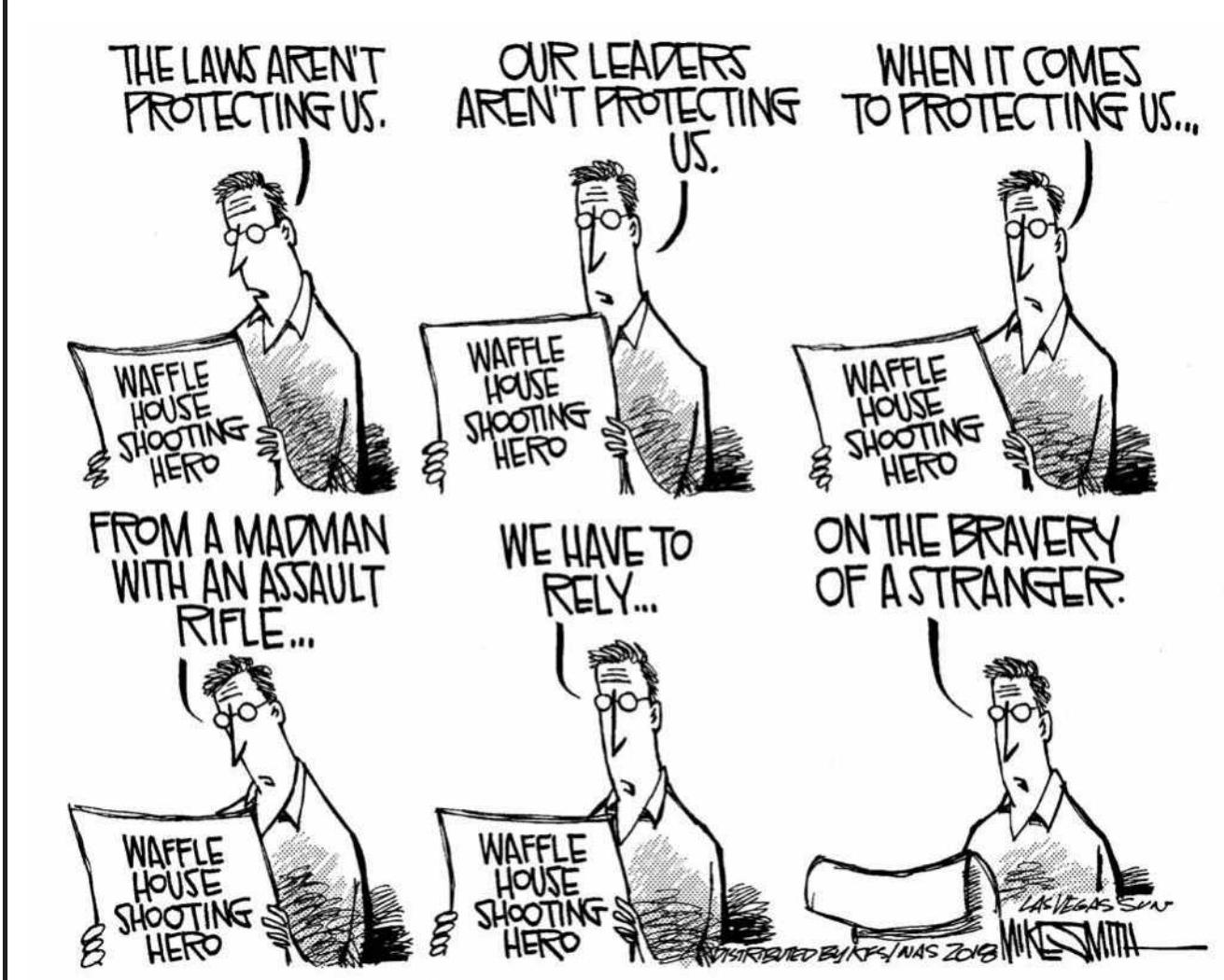
In a cost-cutting move, Takata used ammonium nitrate as the material to trigger the airbag inflators when a collision occurred, according to the Post. Ammonium nitrate should ring a bell. It's the unstable compound that Timothy McVeigh used in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, and the material Afghan Taliban militants have used to craft roadside bombs, the biggest killer of American soldiers during the war in Afghanistan.

Other airbag manufacturers use a less volatile chemical, tetrazole. The chances of ammonium nitrate becoming problematic heighten when the material is exposed to moisture. Higher humidity or large, repeated fluctuations in temperature can cause Takata inflators to degrade, and eventually explode.

Takata declared bankruptcy last year, under the weight of debt that topped \$9 billion. The Justice Department fined the company \$1 billion for manipulating test data about the performance of its inflators and failing to cooperate with the government's investigation into the airbags.

Overall, the recall has involved more than 39 million vehicles built by 19 automakers, according to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data. More than 22 million of those cars have been repaired. But while many owners have heeded the recall warnings and had airbags replaced, 62,307 people are driving Hondas equipped with the dangerous driver-side airbag models, known as Alphas. Those airbags have a 50 percent chance of exploding—not of deploying but of exploding—after impact. Alpha recalls also have been issued for an unspecified number of 2006 Ford Ranger and Mazda B-Series vehicles.

See AIRBAG on Next Page



Laws need to get a grip on gig work

Former Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson recently predicted that by 2020, half of Americans will be self-employed. While this estimate includes freelancers, small-business owners and independent contractors, one big reason for the explosive growth in non-employer work is the gig economy.

Driving for Uber or Lyft, delivering groceries for Instacart and finding handyman jobs through TaskRabbit may be among the best-known gigs, but there are now hundreds, possibly thousands, of such platforms used by millions of American workers on a part- or full-time basis.

This on-demand economy offers real upsides for people who want or need flexible work, but its growth is outrunning every system our country has in place to protect workers. The protections that helped past generations—from unions to minimum wage—may not provide the right answers either.

As a consumer reporter, I became interested in the gig economy while writing about it for various news outlets. I was a freelancer myself and loved the concept, mainly for its promise of flexibility. But as I looked into these job arrangements—and I've now examined more than 175 platforms in depth—I was troubled by how little I could find out about each. How much work could you get? How much could you earn per hour or per week? Could you really make a living cobbling together gigs?

In theory, every gig worker is his or her own boss. You see the bold-print claims in ads or on the platform websites: Work when you want; how you want; where you want. Get paid to take gigs in your spare time. Many suggest wages ranging between \$25 and \$50 per hour. Dig in, however, and you learn these claims are optimistic, if not complete fabrications.

Meanwhile, many of these supposedly flexible companies make plenty of rigid demands. They dictate that workers wear particular clothes, report their location on apps, commit to set blocks of time and be prompt or pay a penalty.

Indeed, some platforms make so many demands that workers asserted they are not independent contractors at all. That has resulted in lawsuits against Uber, GrubHub, Postmates and others. So far, settlements have mostly preserved the worker-as-an-independent-contractor concept that obviates any wage guarantees.

Granted, self-employment outside of gig platforms doesn't offer guaranteed pay either. If I don't write, I don't get paid. But no one tells me where to work, when to work or how to work. Nor do they threaten to penalize me if I turn down an assignment that pays too little or requires too much time. Those things happen to

By KATHY KRISTOF
Los Angeles Times

Kathy Kristof is an award-winning journalist and editor of SideHustl.com.



gig workers all the time.

Worse, when workers are booted from some platforms—the ultimate penalty—they can lose their accumulated wages. The terms and conditions that disclose these unpleasant possibilities often are so well-hidden that the average person would have no way of finding them.

Imposing minimum wage laws on gig platforms doesn't seem like an ideal remedy. That would likely lead to restricting worker hours, reducing the very flexibility that appeals to most gig workers. (This is ultimately what happened at San Francisco food-delivery service Sprig before it shut down last year.) But some protections are needed. At minimum, gig workers should be able to report and halt the type of wage theft that some platforms appear to engage in regularly.

Moreover, platforms should be required to be forthright about how they pay workers and the risks those workers bear when signed onto the platform. Little do delivery drivers know, for instance, that their auto insurance policy may be invalid when using a car for commercial purposes. If they're in an accident, they could lose an asset worth thousands of dollars in pursuit of a \$5 tip.

Appropriate protections could require only slight changes to current federal laws. After all, we require truth in advertising everywhere else—why not here? Federal law also bars wage theft. Shouldn't those rules apply to independent contractors?

But such an important and fast-growing segment of the economy ultimately may need its own carefully constructed rule book. According to the annual "Freelancing in America" report commissioned by the Freelancers Union and Upwork, the independent workforce is growing at three times the rate of the U.S. workforce as a whole. Some 57 million workers did some kind of freelance work in 2017. The trick will be to create rules that foster fair play without trampling the entrepreneurial spirit that's fueling this dynamic industry.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

James Allan, *Under the Dragon Flag*

Do you ever stand at Suicide Cliff, gaze northward, and wonder about exotic lands beyond the horizon? Does adventure beckon? If so, let's do some gazing, and not only at the horizon, but back in time as well.

The year is 1892. The Qing Dynasty reigns in China. Japan is riding a wave of modernization. Victorian England, strong and industrialized, stands astride the world.

And standing on a street in Manchester, one of England's industrial centers, is a young man named James Allan. Thanks to a random encounter with a drunkard, fate is about to steer Allan into a Pacific war and to the business end of a Japanese bayonet.

Before we join Allan's adventure, though, let's climb our promontory at Saipan's northern cusp.

Looking north-northwest, our line of sight, if extended 1,300 nautical miles, will hit Tokyo. If we shift our gaze to the west by a couple dozen degrees or so, it will sweep over Korea and then it will hit China's Port Arthur, which is about 1,900 nautical miles from Saipan.

This arc is the setting for the First Sino-Japanese war, which spanned from 1894 to 1895, as China and Japan clashed over their rivalry to dominate Korea and the broader area called Manchuria.

And now we re-join young Mr. Allan in Manchester, where he is idling with no job, no money, and no prospects.

"I am the son of a Lancashire gentleman," writes Allan by way of introduction, "who accumulated considerable wealth in the cotton trade. He died when I was still a boy. I found myself, when I came of age, the possessor of upwards of £80,000. Thus I started in life as a man of fortune; but it is due to myself to say that I took prompt and effectual measures to clear myself of that invidious character... I ran through that eighty thousand pounds

in something short of four years...my sphere was the gaieties of Paris and the gaming-tables of Monte Carlo."

As Allan stands around ruminating, a stranger staggers up. Thus begins Allan's acquaintance with Charles Webster, a hard-drinking merchant seaman. Webster arranges for Allan to sign onto a ship as a crewmember. After making several voyages together, in 1894 the two wind up in San Francisco, and then wind up gun-running and troop-carrying off the Chinese coast, playing cat-and-mouse with the Japanese navy.

One day, when his ship docks in Port Arthur, Allan takes advantage of his shore time to wander around the place. Allan returns to the dock to find that his ship has departed early. He's stranded in Port Arthur.

He finds outbound passage on another vessel. It's promptly blasted to bits by the Japanese navy. Allan is confined aboard a Japanese warship. He eventually escapes, swimming back to Port Arthur, so he's stuck there once again.

The Japanese army is on the inbound march. Once it arrives it makes short work of overrunning the Chinese defenses. Port Arthur is sacked in a scene of blood and guts. Allan narrowly survives a couple of encounters with Japanese soldiers, then he slips away, with two Chinese associates, to the waterfront.

The three find a small boat, divest it of its burden of fresh corpses, then launch it and row out of the port.

They encounter a Chinese sailing vessel named the *King-Shing*. It's an old-school design known as a "junk." Allan and his companions are allowed to board the junk, which, not surprisingly, is also fleeing the Japanese.

Allan is very much impressed with the junk. This is the only segment of his tale where he relates substantially more description than action. The boat's design, highly evolved for its envi-

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the *Saipan Tribune*.



ronment in China, is totally alien to Allan's European eyes.

The main mast, he notes, is from a solid spar of teak, standing 95 feet tall and measuring 10 feet in circumference at its base; in order to preserve the natural strength of the wood, a natural bend in the mast is accepted. The rudder is suspended by a couple of windlasses which can raise it or lower it depending on conditions. He also notes that the Chinese compass is regarded as a pointer to south, not to north as is the Western convention.

The *King-Shing* gets knocked around by a severe storm, but the boat and crew are equal to the challenge. The Japanese fleet is left safely behind. The adventure is over.

Allan's narrative, *Under the Dragon Flag*, was published in 1898. It's now available as a reprint from a variety of sources. It can also be downloaded for free on the Web.

He concludes: "If my little narrative should for only a few furnish not mere entrainment but admonition, I shall not have gone through quite uselessly my varied and painful experience in life."

And, with that in mind, we shift our gaze back from the distant horizon. Our excursion has ended. We're back in 2018 again.

The deep state in DC

Delegate Kilili questions equal rights and congressional representation denied NMI U.S. citizens and other U.S. territories in recent weeks.

These are vital issues that require attention so it is presented to the U.S. Congress in concert with other territories. It's about the denial of rights! All should gravitate to Kilili to build upon rock solid support to raise this issue with the federal government.

These issues are constitutionally limited to the 50 states. It doesn't include citizens living in territories. Perhaps, the focus was on the founding of the union then.

But when it trumps equal rights against citizens who live in territories it turns into a major form of discrimination. Aren't the issues about a citizen's equal rights and representation?

There are two methods of voting—popular and Electoral College—the former inconsequential, the latter the system used in presidential election.

The Electoral College system is similar in composition as members of the U.S. Congress of 535 from the 50 states plus

three from D.C. for a total of 538. Any presidential candidate must secure 270 electoral votes to secure election. Territories aren't included in either system.

The journey to right this institutional injustice would be long and without any sense of meaningful destination in sight. Obviously, it has persistently suffered congressional neglect. This is where citizens outside of mainstream U.S. of A. must forge a fight to even the playing field on equal rights and representation! Moreover, it would be quite a journey to right this injustice in that it would require some 44 states approving amending the U.S. Constitution to accommodate the two issues.

Meanwhile, we live each day joyfully discriminated! So discriminated it feels like the large fading scar on my left shinbone. And we teach equality and justice in high school civics courses! Are there any movers to right this institutional wrong?

The journey to justice is often long and difficult. But it has to have a beginning. Thanks, Kilili! Will do a follow-up piece on this later.

80-percent ghost: When Da Boysis on Da Hill increased their salaries by 80 percent, two things inevitably happened: 1). They padded their pockets a hefty \$31,600 as others sigh for help. 2). They wedged a division between elite versus ordinary villagers.

Is it now NMI policy to reward failures and punish productive citizens who have earned their dues like completing their college education, passing tests, while the lords of failure on the hill only need proof of residence and age? Why the open perversion of the term "competency?"

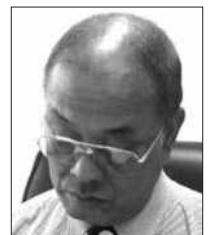
Messy house: The NMI can't seem to keep its ducklings under its wings. If one wants to exit he's basically free to do so at his own peril. Such seems to be the case with our healthcare system confused over whether CHC handles the Kagman Health Center or is it at liberty to opt out on its own.

When it gets down to the basic cost of operations, is the agency fiscally capable to pay for staff salaries, employer's contributions to the retirement program, medication and medical supplies, taxes, and utilities? Beyond the politics to break free, these are issues that definitely merit real answers. If it's a task that can

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the *Saipan Tribune* and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the *Saipan Tribune*.*



be done without CHC's cash infusion, more power to the Kagman management.

Hatch Act: We seem to be dismissive of the limits of political activities by the NMI government. We do so with impunity as though "might is right." I am sure you know there are federal laws that regulate such activities.

What's known as the Hatch Act covers even local governments. The "act prohibits...influencing elections, participating or managing campaigns, and exerting undue influence on government hiring."

The GOP kick-off on Rota last Friday the 13th would fit the bill on "influencing elections" and "participating or managing campaigns" where a Cabinet meeting was the alleged camouflage to resuscitate Biktot Hokog's fading political career. A grand scheme at the expense of taxpayers! This is dead wrong!

It's taxpayers' money that includes several charter flights, per diem, and ground transportation. The public auditor must also do ocular review of this expenditure. In fact, the appropriate local and federal agencies must jointly intervene so we right the wrong once and for all! Was WD-40 oil used to sway voters?

Collusion: Has Hokog done anything to return the \$400,000 he expropriated from taxpayers for his family? How come no one, either from the administration or Legislature, has lifted a finger to enforce accountability of taxpayers' money? Or is this a reconfirmation of Republican collusion on corruption to screw taxpayers royally too?

AIRBAG

From Page 14

A question to those motorists: What are you waiting for? A former Justice Department prosecutor involved in the recall effort has referred to the Alpha airbag as a grenade waiting to explode. And even for motorists whose cars don't have an Alpha but have airbag models included in the recall, remember this: When you're behind the wheel, the device safety experts urge you to replace it positioned about a foot from your chest.

Appearing on the market in the 1980s, airbags have a proven track record of saving lives. There's an easy way to see if your airbag is among the dangerous ones. At NHTSA's website, www.saipantribune.com, input your vehicle identification number (VIN), and see whether your car is subject to the recall. If it is, hustle to a dealer. Repairs are free of charge. Knowing what's at stake for you and your loved ones, how can you put it off any longer?

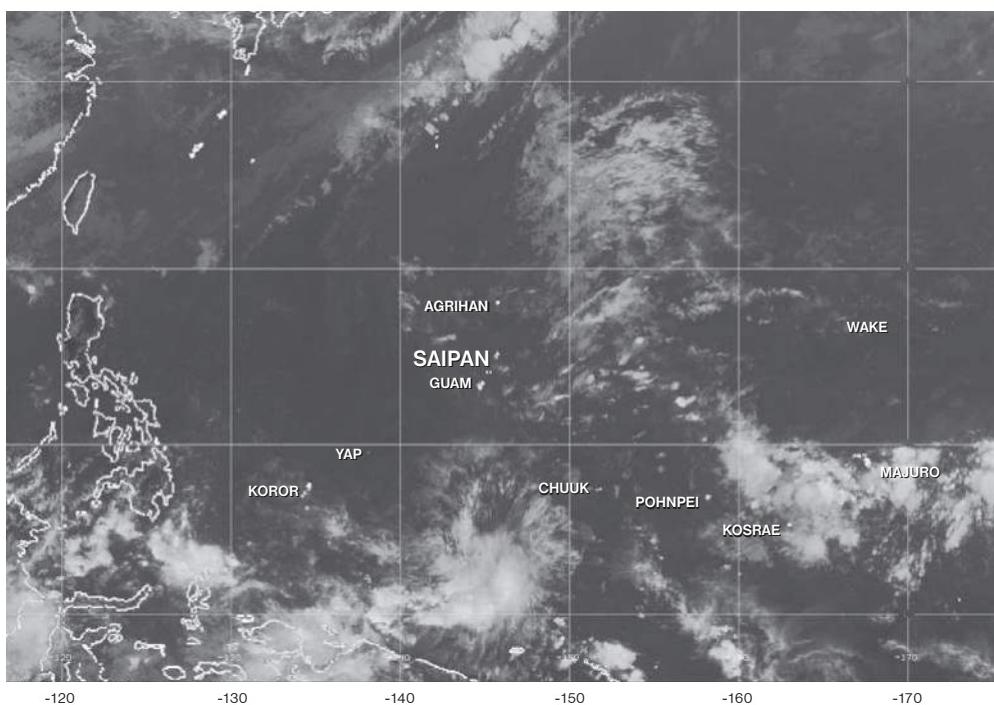
(c)2018 Chicago Tribune

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:46 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

With overnight showers dissipating, a pleasant morning is expected, however, showers and thunderstorms are still expected to move into the area later this afternoon. Total precipitable water continues to show a tongue of increased atmospheric moisture east of the Marianas south of 15N. Models still point to Friday being the wettest period for this event. Conditions will gradually improve as showers move out in time for the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86°	/	79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	87°	/	78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86°	/	79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86°	/	79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85°	/	78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85°	/	78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84°	/	78°

AROUND THE GLOBE

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Rain	66°	/	61°
Beijing	Sunny	82°	/	59°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	81°	/	73°
Honolulu	Showers	81°	/	69°
London	Showers	54°	/	45°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	71°	/	54°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	95°	/	81°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	64°	/	48°
Miami	Showers	81°	/	71°
New York	Showers	57°	/	52°
Osaka	Sunny	75°	/	57°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	64°	/	48°
Busan	Sunny	66°	/	54°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	81°	/	59°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	73°	/	50°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	57°	/	49°
Seoul	Sunny	70°	/	46°
Tokyo	Sunny	72°	/	57°
Washington, DC	Rain	63°	/	52°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

5:54 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.96
12:21 PM	LOW TIDE	0.49
6:03 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73
12:20 AM	LOW TIDE	0.37

DAY SUNRISE SUNSET

Today	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM

DAY MOONRISE MOONSET MOONRISE

Today	-	3:53 AM	4:10 PM
Saturday	-	4:36 AM	5:03 PM
Sunday	-	5:18 AM	5:56 PM
Monday	-	6:00 AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	-	6:43 AM	7:40 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297 4:20pm 7:15pm Daily				DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:00am 6:05am Daily				TW3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
OZ626 2:10am 6:00am 1				OZ625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily			
LJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1,							

MCS celebrates MMB legacy with essays

Mount Carmel School is joining the continuing celebration of the 90th anniversary of the arrival of the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz, or the MMB sisters, on Saipan. The school recently held a series of contests that invited students to reflect on the impact of the MMB sisters on Saipan and their school. Winners will be announced during a special May 4 Mass for May Crowning. The finalists for the essay contest are high school students Brandee Hunter, Matt Moran, and Cassidy Torres.

Along with Fr. Arnold Bendowski, the MMB sisters were the founding mothers of the school who served as teachers and administrators when the school opened in 1952. Over the years, the MMB sisters have continued to help as teachers, facilitators for student retreats, and spiritual advocates who keep the school in their prayers.

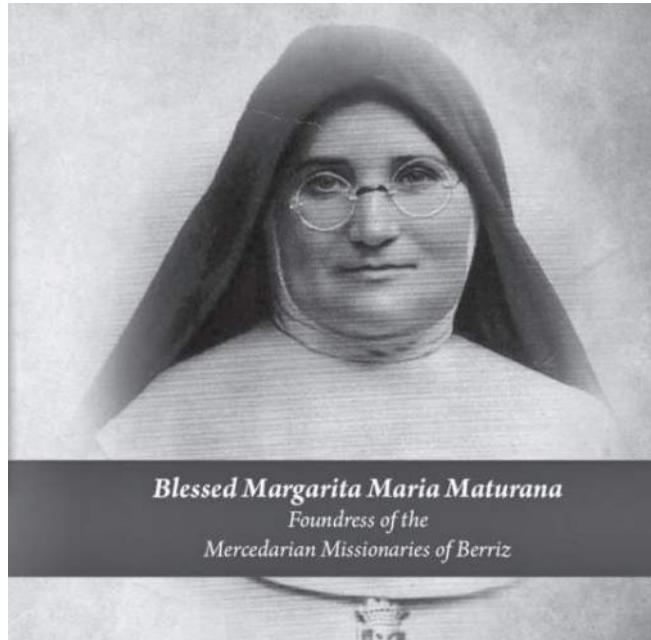
To honor the work the MMB sisters have done, the school challenged students to reflect on the theme, "The MMB Legacy: Looking Back and Looking Forward, What Will Your Mission Be?"

'Do Good in This World'

By BRANDEE HUNTER

As the 90th anniversary of the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz is coming up, we should all remember and commemorate everything that the remarkable and historic group did to help make our school what it is today. By doing this, we should start by going back to where it all began.

In the early 1920's, Mother Margarita Maria Maturana was inspired to help spread Catholicism to many places in the world other than in Spain, which is where she had served God at her sequestered Mercedarian convent. She then worked hard to raise



Blessed Margarita Maria Maturana
Foundress of the
Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Blessed Margarita Maria Maturana, the founder of the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz.

funds for the mission, and she set off for China in 1926. In 1928, Mother Margarita sent missionaries to Saipan as it was their first expedition in the Pacific. The MMB had established their presence, especially in the time of the war from 1941-1945. The MMB had showed uttermost kindness and love to everyone during that time of suffering. Though the war had affected them and put them through endless nights of toil, the sisters had persisted and prayed and thanked God for everything he had done to keep them safe and alive. Their reflection during that time shows how much courage and dedication that the MMB has for God and his children.

After the war, the sisters were injured and sick. They had lost

everything because of the damage from the war, but God had sent them a sign that they were meant to be there. Hope prevailed when the U.S. soldiers had provided the sisters with a home that they had highly appreciated and had used to educate people about God. Since then, the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz have had an active influence on Saipan and our sister islands. The influence that they have implemented on our island has not only led to hundreds of people learning and being inspired by the word of God, but it has led to the establishment of our school, Mount Carmel.

When Fr. Arnold Bendowsky looked to the sisters, they gladly helped build Mount Carmel to where it is today. The inspiration that they have planted has grown extraordinarily as you can see through the students and the ongoing spirit of the school. When I came to Mount Carmel in 2009, I had no idea that I would come to love and care for a school so great as Mount Carmel is, all thanks to the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz.

My mission today is to inspire, do good in this world, and find faith in everything. By inspiring, I can be a role model and guide others to succeed just as the sisters had. Though I am still young, I hope to have the same heartening imprint that they had here in the Pacific. I want to do good in the world by helping others, being kind, and being selfless. Like Mother Margarita once said, "I feel great joy by doing good."

When I think of faith, I think of how they had so much faith and hope in their hearts during World War II. They were on the edge of breaking down, and the endless despair did not stop but what still was there was the faith they had not only in God, but in the people and each other. My faith grows everyday just reading and learning more about the MMB.

The impact from the MMB that is upon our friends, family, school, and island is truly indescribable and no one will ever have the same imprint as those sisters did. For ninety years, the MMB has given our islands education, safety, faith, love, care, and so much more. Everything that the MMB has done has paved the way for Mount Carmel's future, the students' futures,

See MCS on Next Page



Northern Marianas College

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6858/6855 • Fax: (670) 235-3696
Website: <http://www.marianas.edu>

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Network Systems Administrator: Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering (may be foreign equivalent). 60-months experience as Computer Network Specialist. Participate in Program Review and Outcomes Assessment (PROA) activities, maintain network and computer system security and ensure that all systems are operation correctly. Send resume to: Northern Marianas College, Attn: Human Resource Office, P.O. Box 501250, Saipan, MP 96950

For more information please visit the official college website at www.marianas.edu or call 670-237-6858 or 6855.
The College is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT INVESTIGATOR

Opening Date: 04/18/18 Closing Date: 05/18/18
POSITION: Investigator **EXAMINATION NO.** OPA-18-001

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Gualo Rai. Completed employment application form and pertinent documents must be submitted at the Office of the Public Auditor.



Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: <http://opacnmi.com>
1236 Yap Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Email: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481

SUCCESS INTERNATIONAL CORP. HEAVY EQUIPMENT RENTAL

- Backhoe • Grader • Boom truck • Lowboy
- Compactor • Payloader • Dumptruck
- Water Truck • Excavator



For more inquiries, please call Rachele at 322-1558 or Henry at 322-1988/287-1698
Location: Lower Base, Saipan

We operate for land clearing, excavation and different construction works.



INVITATION TO BID CPA-ITB-005-18

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 27, 2018 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

PROCUREMENT, DELIVERY, AND INSTALLATION OF ONE (1) ENERGY EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL AIR COOLED PACKAGE A/C UNIT AT THE BENJAMIN T. MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 06, 2018.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: "ITB FOR THE PROCUREMENT, DELIVERY, AND INSTALLATION OF ONE (1) ENERGY EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL AIR COOLED PACKAGE A/C UNIT AT THE BENJAMIN T. MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA (ITB-005-18)". BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 540-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

ADDENDUM NO.2 ITB 18-DCCA/HPO-052

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW DIGITAL COLOR COPIER MACHINE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

April 23, 2017

This **Addendum No. 2** is issued to amend the specifications and also to schedule the bid submission and opening date.

In the Specifications:

- To add Functions: Print, copy, scan, fax, email, duplex
- To delete Paper Source (Cassette) Capacity – Minimum of 1,200 sheets not more or less and to add: Paper handling – Minimum of 1,000 sheets or more.
- To delete: Paper Weight Supported – 14lbs to 140lbs. Index not more or less and to add: Media Weight Supported – 15lbs to 150lbs. Index not more or less, duplex.

Bid Schedule:

- One (1) original and three (3) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "ITB18-DCCA/HPO-052" to the office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP no later than **09:30 a.m., local time, May 03, 2018**.

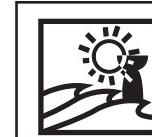
- Firms submitting bids from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of their bid by submitting a "Notice of Intent to Bid" to the Director of Procurement and Supply and may be faxed to (670) 664-1515 or emailed to procurement@cnmidof.net no later than **09:30 a.m., local time, May 03, 2018**.

- For bidders located outside the CNMI, a package containing one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no less than **May 03, 2018** and mailed to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply to P.O. Box 510008, C.K., Saipan, MP 96950 and the bid documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill **May 14, 2018**. Late submission and conditional bids will not be considered.

- Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **09:30 a.m., local time, May 16, 2018**. However, if no Notice of Intent to Bid were received from bidders outside of CNMI, bids will be opened at **09:30 a.m., local time, May 03, 2018**.

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

End of Addendum No. 2



REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, May 1, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. Regular Board Meeting – March 9, 2018
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Committee Reports
 1. Finance –
 - a. Fund Status Report – April 2018
- 4) New Business
 1. Tropical Gardens Contract Renewal
 2. G4S Contract Renewal
 3. Support to the CNMI Museum
 4. RFP for Global Branding Services
 5. Board Standing Committees
- 5) Miscellaneous/Announcements
- 6) Executive Session
- 7) Adjournment

/s/ Gloria Cavanagh
Chairwoman, MVA Board of Directors

MCS

From Page 17

and most especially, my future. To conclude this, I want to thank the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz for the 90 years of inspiration, leadership, service, and success here on Saipan.

'Our Mission'

By MATT JASON B. MORAN

The Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz, commonly known as the MMB, have been on this small island of Saipan for over 90 years now. Their ministry includes spreading education (formal and informal), supporting women, inspiring the youth, deepening the bond of one's spirit through retreats and recollections, forming a laity, working with migrants, ministering to other foreign countries, etc. The MMB have been present in the Micronesian islands for as long as I could remember, and they have always welcomed youth groups and classes for retreats. They are passionate about what they do. They have been doing it not for themselves, but for the people of their community, and, most importantly, God.

They have been here for the people of the community and the students of Mount Carmel here on Saipan, as they were the founding mothers of the school. They are present in five continents, and have continued to spread out their mission on each one. One of its first missions was here on Saipan. Sisters Loreto Zubia, Inocencia Urizar, Pilar Lorenzo, Maria Teresa Cortazar and Aurora Chopitea embarked onto a new journey on Oct. 30, 1927. They left northern Spain, only to arrive on Saipan the following year of 1928. They then opened their school 15 days later.

I believe that God's love is everywhere, and anyone would be able to share it. The MMB have been excellent examples of how we should be spreading the good news of God—by showing it through our actions. The sisters at the Maturana House of Prayer have always been kind, friendly, and welcoming whenever we meet up with them for a retreat. Despite having their busy schedules, they take the time to share their passion with us. Whether or not there may have been hardships within their group in the past, they have been here spreading their ministry with us, the community of Saipan, as well as the people of the CNMI.

I truly believe that God has a plan for every single one of us, and I always pray for Him to guide me to the path he planned for me. I see myself graduating high school at Mount Carmel, the school founded by the Mercedarian Sisters. After, I plan, with God's guidance, to be reunited with my brother in California. While I am not eligible to be a sister of the MMB, I believe that I can still minister in my own little ways. I want to be a doctor when I grow up. I love to help others and I like to see them happy. Spreading God's love and His ministry would also be a part of my personal mission. I would not only wish to heal a person's physical ailments, but also problems in his/her spiritual life. If God, the perfect being, loves every single person, why shouldn't we?

Overall, the MMB have affected us either in one way or another. They have always had a huge presence in the spiritual aspect of the community of Saipan. For ninety years, they have not given up on their ministry, and I do not see them disappearing any time soon. They are a group of women who have a genuine passion for what they do. We all have a mission; we all have a calling from God. The question is—will you answer to His call?

'Courage, Sacrifice, Dedication, and Kindness'

By CASSIDY TORRES

While Blessed Mother Margarita Maria Maturana's entrance into the convent was prompted by her mother's attempt to separate Margarita from her suitor, she would eventually play a significant role in what the cloistered monastery would later be known as the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz. Sr. Margarita entered the Cloistered Mercedarian Monastery of Vera Cruz on August 10, 1903, and later formed the Mercedarian Missionary Youth in 1920. This missionary spirit encouraged the monastery to take up an active missionary Order. Sr. Margarita, the first Superior General of the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz, and her brave sisters, inspired and driven by their love for God, left the cloistered life to travel to unfamiliar parts of the world.

On March 4, 1928, four nuns—Srs. Teresa Cortaza, Loreto Zubia, Inocencia Urizar, and Pilar Lorenzo—landed on Saipan by boat at Pantalan Aleman after spending almost three months traveling. Only 15 days after their arrival, the sisters responded to the young local women's desire for a school. In 1951, the sisters founded Our Lady of Mercy Kindergarten, now known as Sr.

Remedios Early Childhood Development Center which would provide the first batch of students for the school that would open the following year. In 1952, Saipan's first Catholic school, Mount Carmel, was established by Fr. Arnold Bendowsky and the Mercedarian Sisters made up the school's first teachers and administration. Mount Carmel School began with its first classrooms in the old sugar mill factory generator house, but with the commitment of the school family and the Mercedarian sisters, the school would expand and grow in the years to come.

Since its establishment in 1952, majority of Mount Carmel School's leadership roles would be filled up by Mercedarian sisters. From Sr. Ana Maria as the first superior, to Srs. Dolores Larranaga and Pia Goichoechea as the first teachers, to Sr. Regina Paulino as the principal in 1979, the Mercedarian sisters' dedication has always been evident and alive. Mount Carmel would later be known to produce bright students who would become the island's leaders, doctors, lawyers, businessmen, and businesswomen. The school's profound success in its students can be attributed to the Mercedarian sisters faithful presence as leaders and teachers. Nevertheless, the Mercedarian sisters played a significant role in the security and triumph of Mount Carmel School.

The stories of the Mercedarian sisters and their history on Saipan are merely stories of courage, sacrifice, dedication, and kindness. I grew up hearing these stories—during my time at Sr. Remedios Early Childhood Development Center, in numerous homilies at Sunday Mass, and in all my 12 years attending Mount Carmel School. In these stories, the Mercedarian sisters are successful in their mission: transform the lives of others by liberating them from the injustices of the world. The significant impact the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz has had on my island has inspired my own goal. I aim to liberate my own talents, skills, and potential to accomplish becoming the best version of myself and making a positive impact in the world around me. One path I plan to take to liberate my capacities is to pursue a higher education in hopes of acquiring the skills and knowledge to make a difference.

The education I have received throughout my life is the direct result of the MMB sisters coming to Saipan. Education is something I will forever value and be motivated to obtain. Soon, I will leave my island to continue the life as a learner, I will live in and explore different places, and I will make sacrifices to improve myself and the lives of others.



SSFM CNMI, LLC
Project Managers • Planners • Engineers
Locally Owned and Managed
Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**CNMI COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC LAND USE PLAN UPDATE FOR ROTA, TINIAN, SAIPAN, AND THE NORTHERN ISLANDS****A PROJECT UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS**

The Department of Public Lands (DPL) has retained SSFM CNMI along with their sub-consultant, Chris Hart & Partners, Inc., to update the CNMI's Public Land Use Plan in order to satisfy Public Law 15-02. This effort is intended to incorporate the public's interests, the needs of government agencies, and groups representing commercial interests.

The first set of public hearings for this project occurred during the week of September 18 to September 21, 2017. The second set of public hearings regarding the CNMI Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan Update for Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and the Northern Islands have been scheduled for each municipality as follows:

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1) | Municipality of Rota | 4) | Municipality of Saipan - 2 |
| a. | Date – Monday, May 7, 2018 | a. | Date – Thursday, May 10, 2018 |
| b. | Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM | b. | Time – 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM |
| c. | Location – Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall | c. | Location – Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Cafeteria |
| 2) | Municipality of Tinian and Aguijan | 5) | Municipality of Saipan - 3 |
| a. | Date – Tuesday, May 8, 2018 | a. | Date – Friday, May 11, 2018 |
| b. | Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM | b. | Time – 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM |
| c. | Location – Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria | c. | Location – Fiesta Resort's Hibiscus Hall, Garapan |
| 3) | Municipality of Saipan - 1 | 6) | Municipality of the Northern Islands |
| a. | Date – Wednesday, May 9, 2018 | a. | Date – Friday, May 11, 2018 |
| b. | Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM | b. | Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM |
| c. | Location – Hopwood Middle School Cafeteria | c. | Location – Northern Islands Mayor's Office, Bldg. 1345, Capitol Hill |

Comments on the Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan Update may be submitted orally or in writing at any of the scheduled public hearings. Persons unable to attend, including off-island residents, may fill out an online stakeholder survey form or view the current draft available on DPL's website at <http://www.dpl.gov.mp/land-use-plan-resources/>. You may also email your comments directly to rreyes@ssfmcnmllc.com or jhart@chpmaui.com to ensure that your interests are heard and considered. After the public hearings, all comments and feedback from this second round of public hearings will be compiled for incorporation into the final draft of the updated public land use plan. Therefore, the public is encouraged to attend any of the scheduled public hearings and provide comment.

There will be a final Public Involvement Program Meeting to present the final draft of the updated public land use plan. The tentative timeframe is mid-July 2018.

If you have any questions regarding the public hearings, please contact SSFM CNMI at (670) 233-7770.

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
AIRPORT GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (AGIS) SURVEY SERVICES
BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT****PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-001-18 (AIP Pending)**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Airports Geographical Information Systems (AGIS) Services for the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

These services are being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and CPA. This service procurement is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, April 13, 2018, 5:00 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Capability to perform all or most aspects of the services with a minimum of three (3) years' experience with AGIS and Airport Improvement Programs. (**WEIGHT 30**)
2. Ability to implement an AGIS Obstruction Survey and Airport Airspace Analysis. (**WEIGHT 20**)
3. Key personnel's professional background and successful relevant experience in AGIS projects comparable to the proposed services. (**WEIGHT 20**)
4. Demonstrated ability to meet AGIS standards, NGS requirements, and Airport Master Plan standards. (**WEIGHT 10**)
5. Ability to complete services within schedule without having major extensions, cost escalations, overruns, or disputed claims; (**WEIGHT 10**)
6. Quality of projects previously undertaken that are comparable to proposed services. (**WEIGHT 10**)

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf format of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: April 3, 2018

IT&E re-brands with new tagline



From left, Danny Daniel, senior manager of brand and public relations; Jim Oehlerking, IT&E CEO; and Angela Rosario, director of marketing product development.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HARMON, Guam—IT&E announced Wednesday it will be embarking on a new journey with changes to its branding. The new branding includes an updated tagline and redesigned visual identity.

With “Explore Your World” as its new tagline, IT&E encourages consumers to use technology to live their best life by discovering, or rediscovering, the extraordinary in everyday life.

This call to action is highlighted by a visual identity that encourages customers to explore their surroundings. The new IT&E visual identity also features a modern interpretation of the latte stone to signify the shared culture of Guam and the Marianas.

The IT&E logo and signature blue color remain the same. Jim Oehlerking, CEO of IT&E, said: “The new brand re-energizes our image and at the same time reinforces our continued commitment to the community and our core values. From here, the public can look forward to future projects we have planned that will improve customer experience and bring the most advanced technology to Guam.”

Along with a new tagline “We’re really proud to

and visual identity, IT&E is introducing new products. The new device payment plan allows the cost of a device to be paid across three or six easy monthly installments.

Unlimited 4G LTE data is now a permanent offering. The unlimited plan, called Freedom, is complemented by Guam’s only stackable unlimited plan, called Freedom+. Customers can now add as many as two lines to a current or new unlimited plan for just \$50 a month for each line.

“We’ve always worked to develop offerings that make devices and services accessible, from our student plan to our wide selection of postpaid and prepaid plans,” said Angela Rosario, director of marketing and product development at IT&E. “We’re delivering the connections that matter by putting devices in people’s hands and giving them the ability to share, stream, call and text without limits.”

To celebrate the launch of IT&E’s new brand, local rock-reggae band The John Dank Show composed an original song, *Explore Your World*, which expresses the spirit of fun and exploration.

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

bring *Explore Your World* to the community. The tagline, imagery and song come together to create an exciting message and experience that can only be found at IT&E,” said Danny Daniel, senior manager of brand and public relations at IT&E.

The re-branding falls on the 10th anniversary of PTI Pacifica Inc.’s purchase of IT&E Overseas Inc. in 2008. Today, IT&E serves more than 90,000 subscribers in Guam and the CNMI. (PR)



Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management

P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315

www.crm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE TO ALL MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS IN SAIPAN, TINIAN, & ROTA

Pursuant to the recent amendments to NMIAC § 15-10, the Coastal Resources Management Rules and Regulations, the Director of the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be reissuing new Area of Particular Concern (APC) permits to all commercial marine sports operations on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The purpose for reissuing marine sports permits is to ensure such permits reflect updated terms and conditions and comply with the current requirements of NMIAC-10-205(h)(4). DCRM hereby advises all marine sports operators on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to reapply by submitting a new CRM APC permit application to DCRM on or before May 30, 2018. Any marine sports permit issued from previous years will no longer be valid effective May 31, 2018.



NOTICE OF APPLICATION DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315



As of September 27, 2017 NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Office of The Mayor	4/16/2018 TSm-2018-X-02	Tinian Sign	Taga Beach	Shoreline	Under Review
2. Office of The Mayor	4/16/2018 TSm-2018-X-03	Repair Of Existing Ladder	Taga Beach	Shoreline	Under Review
3. Bridge Investment Group, LLC	4/10/2018 TPIm-2018-X-04	Road Removal	Port Of Tinian	Ports & Industrial	Under Review
4. BSEA, Inc. dba BSEA Sunsports	4/11/2018 SLRm-2016-X-106 & SLRm-03-X-47	Marine Sports Parasailing & Banana Boat	Tanapag Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 4/13/2018
5. Tribe Marianas	4/6/2018 SSm-2018-X-057	Electric Island Festival	Fishing Base, Garapan	Shoreline	Approved* 4/16/2018
6. The Rose Empire Corp. dba Flyboy Water Sports	4/12/2018 SLR-2018-X-058	Marine Sports Sea Walker & SCUBA (Amended)	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 4/13/2018
7. The Rose Empire Corp. dba Flyboy Water Sports	4/12/2018 SLR-2018-X-059	Marine Sports SCUBA (Deleted)	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 4/13/2018
8. Commonwealth Council For Arts & Culture (CCAC)	4/16/2018 SSChm-2018-X-059	Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival	Kilili Beach Park (Civic Center), Susupe	Minor Construction	Approved* 4/18/2018
9. Marianas Visitors Authority	4/17/2018 SSChm-2018-X-060	Konger Obstacle Course Challenge	Kilili Beach Park (Civic Center), Susupe	Minor Construction	Approved* 4/18/2018

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.



Frankie McJohn, lead vocals and rhythm guitarist of The John Dank Show, describes the creative process behind the band's original song, “Explore Your World.”

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

23rd Micronesia Islands Forum



Chuuk Gov. Johnson Elimo, right, shares a laugh with Pohnpei Gov. Marcel Peterson.

ERWIN ENCINARES



About 270 participants stand as the final national anthem is played before starting the Micronesia Islands Forum.

ERWIN ENCINARES



From left, Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo, Palau President Tommy Remengesau, Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine, NMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Federated States of Micronesia President Peter Christian, Pohnpei Gov. Marcelo Peterson, Chuuk Gov. Johnson Elimo, and Yap Lt. Gov. James Yangtai pose for a picture Wednesday at the start of the 23rd Micronesia Islands Forum at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

ERWIN ENCINARES



NMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, poses with Palau President Tommy Remengesau, second left, NMI Chief Justice Alejandro Castro, second right, and NMI chief marshal Jason Tarkong in the far right.

ERWIN ENCINARES



NMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres poses for a picture with Federated States of Micronesia President Michael Peterson.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo, center, shares a story with Saipan municipal councilors Luis John Castro, left, and Diego Kaipat.

ERWIN ENCINARES



NMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres addresses the chief executives of the Micronesia Islands Forum as the 23rd chair.

ERWIN ENCINARES



NMI Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog's chief of staff John O. Gonzales, left, and Carolinian Affairs Office Special Assistant John Tagabuel, second left, lead the traditional chant, 'Bendision Antigu' yesterday.

ERWIN ENCINARES



NMI Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog shakes the hand of Palau President Tommy Remengesau as Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo looks on.

ERWIN ENCINARES



The 23rd Micronesia Islands Forum at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan has a total of 270 registered participants.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Business

E. coli outbreak linked to romaine lettuce grows to 84 cases

PHOENIX (AP)—The E. coli outbreak linked to tainted romaine lettuce has grown and sickened 84 people from 19 states, U.S. health officials said Wednesday.

At least another 31 cases are believed to be tied to romaine lettuce grown in Yuma, Arizona, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control said.

Those infected range in age from 1 to 88 and more than half of are female. Forty-two

people have been hospitalized, including nine battling kidney failure. Symptoms of E. coli infection include diarrhea, severe stomach cramps and vomiting, the agency said.

No deaths have been reported.

The illnesses started between March 13 and April 12, according to agency officials.

Pennsylvania has had the most, with 18 cases, followed by California with 13 and 10

Comcast challenges Murdoch with rival bid for UK-based Sky

LONDON (AP)—U.S. media giant Comcast on Wednesday offered 22 billion pounds (\$30.7 billion) for Sky PLC, topping a bid from Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox and setting up a bidding war for Britain's biggest satellite television company.

Comcast said it would pay 12.75 pounds for each Sky share, 16 percent more than Fox's offer. Sky shares rose 3.9 percent to 13.59 pounds as investors bet Fox would sweeten its bid, and Sky withdrew its recommendation that shareholders accept the Fox offer.

Sky is based in London and has pay-TV operations across Europe, offering a platform for U.S. companies like Comcast and Fox to expand abroad. Fox, which already owns 39 percent of Sky, offered to buy the rest of the shares last June, triggering concerns the deal would give Murdoch too much control over British media. Walt Disney Co., which is in the process of buying Fox, has signaled it would be interested in buying Sky to neutralize Murdoch's critics.

"The question now is whether Fox/Disney makes a knockout bid to discourage any further Comcast offer and what it thinks this level is, without breaking the bank," analysts at Liberum Capital said in a note to clients.

Fox issued a statement saying it remains committed to its offer and is "currently considering its options."

Comcast CEO Brian Roberts said Sky's 23 million customers and leading positions in the U.K., Italy and Germany would provide "significant opportunities for growth."

"We also understand the role that Sky plays in U.K. society and in its customers' lives, and we are determined to be responsible and trusted owners of Sky," Roberts said in a statement.

also pitched at the regulators and public officials who have raised concerns about the Fox bid.

The company laid out a strategy that showed it was interested in being a good corporate citizen in Britain, promising to use Sky as a platform for growth in Europe, maintaining Sky's U.K. headquarters and using the acquisition to "expand Comcast's international footprint."

"That is very important mood music to the takeover panel," said Alice Enders, the head of research at Enders Analysis.

The company also said it would maintain the funding and independence of Sky's news operation for at least 10 years and pledged that it wouldn't buy any British newspapers for at least five years.

The regulator is conducting an investigation into whether Fox's offer would give Murdoch and his family—who already own several other media titles in the U.K.—too much control over the country's news media. Fox has proposed remedies to address those concerns, and the government will decide by the end of June whether they are enough.

"The important thing about the Comcast bid is that they appear to match the remedy that has been offered by Fox," Enders said.

Comcast, which owns cable channels MSNBC and CNBC, argues its approach would escape concerns over media plurality because of its "minimal presence" in U.K. media.

"We also understand the role that Sky plays in U.K. society and in its customers' lives, and we are determined to be responsible and trusted owners of Sky," Roberts said in a statement.

Romaine linked to E. coli

CDC, FDA and several states are investigating an outbreak of E. coli infections linked to romaine lettuce from the Yuma, Arizona growing region. This warning now includes whole heads and hearts of romaine lettuce, in addition to chopped romaine and salads and salad mixes containing romaine.



E. coli infections

Harmful E. coli strains attack the body through the intestines. Untreated, E. coli toxins pass into the bloodstream and spread throughout the body.

What is E. coli bacteria

- Bacteria found in cattle, may make its way to water sources
- Can survive cold as low as -4 F (-20 C), heat up to 140 F (60 C) and can live in 68 F (20 C) water for 40 days
- First reported outbreaks, 1982
- First linked to incurable kidney disease, 1983
- Just a few of the organisms can make a human sick; must be ingested through mouth

In the body

Toxins from E. coli bacteria collect in kidneys; untreated, can lead to kidney failure, possible death



Source: Consumer Reports, AP, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Graphic: Staff, TNS

in Idaho.

The agency last week issued a warning against eating all

romaine lettuce. An investigation is being conducted by the agency and the U.S. Food and

Drug Administration.

FDA spokesman Peter Cassell says a recall cannot be issued because no common supplier or grower has been found.

Agency workers are in Yuma sifting through paperwork showing how romaine lettuce was handled and shipped.

"We're on the paper trail, not onto the sampling yet," Cassell said.

Lettuce samples will be tested after the workers find evidence of a shared farm or supplier, he said.

Restaurants and supermarkets were also instructed to dispose of romaine lettuce if it came from Yuma or its origin was unknown. Sandwich shop Panera Bread, which has more than 2,000 U.S. locations, said on its website that all romaine from Yuma was removed when the first warning was issued. The chain says its cafes are now using romaine lettuce harvested in California.

Wildflower Bread Company, an Arizona restaurant chain, said all of its romaine lettuce comes from California, which has no connection to the outbreak.

Cassell said the outbreak

will be declared over when health officials are sure romaine lettuce from Yuma is no longer on the market.

The Yuma region about 185 miles (298 kilometers) southwest of Phoenix and close to the California border is referred to as the country's "winter vegetable capital." It is known for its agriculture and often revels in it with events like a lettuce festival.

According to the Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association, the outbreak came as the harvest of romaine was about to end. Steve Alameda, the group's president, said growers haven't suffered significant economic losses partly because of the timing of the outbreak.

Growers in Yuma typically plant romaine lettuce between September and January. The peak of the harvest season runs from mid-November until the beginning of April.

"At this point, there wasn't that much romaine left here," Alameda said.

He said it's likely more affecting the parent companies of local growers—shippers and processors who make chopped, packaged salads.

Facebook advertisers shrug off its privacy scandal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Facebook's troubles with Russian election meddlers, "fake news" and misused data have dominated headlines globally.

But they don't seem to be affecting Facebook's bottom line, so far, as advertisers continue to flock to the service in droves.

Facebook's revenue, which largely derives from ads, soared 49 percent to \$12 billion in the first three months of the year, the company announced on Wednesday. Profit jumped 63 percent to \$5 billion.

And despite a buzzy "DeleteFacebook" online campaign, both daily and monthly user numbers increased. More than 1.45 billion people check Facebook at least once a day, a 13 percent increase from a year earlier.

Facebook is the second largest digital publisher in the world, behind Google. It raked in \$39.94 billion in 2017—about 17 percent of total online ad spending, according to data firm eMarketer.

What makes Facebook so attractive to advertisers? It's the very data at the center of its recent privacy scandal. Advertisers rely on the reams of data Facebook collects on its 2.2 billion users to specifically target their ads—baby shampoo to someone who is likely a new mom, for example—thus increasing the value of their ad spending.

But Facebook has been facing backlash about how it uses that data since news broke in March that the Trump-linked data-mining firm Cambridge Analytica had gained information on up to 87 million users.

Since the story broke, there have been some rumblings that advertisers would flee the platform. A few companies, including the German bank Commerzbank and speaker-maker Sonos, temporarily paused their ads. If other brands had followed, that would have been a big problem for Facebook, which gets a whopping 98 percent of its revenue from digital ads.

But advertisers have shrugged off the scandals in the aggregate. In fact, according to one digital media planning and buying company, ad spending has been up.

The company, 4C, tracks \$250 million in actual spending from more than 1,000 brands that use its tools to buy ads. According to its data, over the two weeks in March after the Cambridge Analytica news broke, ad spending increased 7 percent and 14.5 percent, respectively. And for the first quarter, which ended March 30, advertising spending rose 62 percent, 4C said.

Of course, \$250 million is a drop in the bucket compared to Facebook's \$39.94 billion

in 2017 advertising revenue. But the 4C numbers give some indication of how smaller brands are behaving.

4C chief marketing officer Aaron Goldman said that as long as data continues to be a key part of advertisers' plans, they're unlikely to leave Facebook because of the quality of its data.

"While privacy and security are very serious issues that Facebook is rightly focusing on, as long as the return-on-investment is there, advertisers won't stop investing in Facebook altogether," he said.

Brian Wieser, a senior research analyst for advertising at Pivotal Research Group, said his conversations with marketers indicate none have plans to cut ads from Facebook so far.

"Most are disturbed at an individual level with what happened, but there's nothing that made Facebook overly toxic—yet," he said.

Some analysts are modeling slightly less rosy takes going forward, however. GBH Insights analyst Daniel Ives thinks that about 3 percent of Facebook's total advertising revenue—between \$1 billion and \$2 billion annually—is "at risk." According to GBH's advertiser checks and consumer surveys, about 15 percent of FB users have scaled back on using the service.

BMO research analyst Dan

Salmon thinks there is one privacy issue that might give advertisers pause: Facebook's decision in March to stop working with third-party data collectors. That might be a good public relations move, he said, but it's a big change for advertisers.

After conversations with ad agencies and ad tech companies, Salmon believes some will see a decline in the profitability of their ads as a result of the change. But he doesn't expect a major impact on Facebook revenue.

Overall, Facebook digital ad revenue overall is surging, but growth is slowing down. Ad revenues rose 49 percent in 2017, but that's down from 57 percent growth in 2016, according to eMarketer, which tallies revenue from company reports and other sources. And in 2018, revenue growth is expected to slow even further to 22 percent.

After years of unfettered spending on digital ads, some big advertisers have begun to rethink their spending plans. P&G, the world's biggest advertiser, for example, cut \$200 million out of its digital ad spending in 2017 and reinvested it in more traditional formats like TV ads. Unilever, the second-biggest consumer packaged goods company has also said it is evaluating its ad spending.

Nation

Ex-cop arrested in sadistic crime spree from '70s and '80s

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A man once sworn to protect the public from crime was accused Wednesday of living a double life terrorizing suburban neighborhoods at night, becoming one of California's most feared serial killers and rapists in the 1970s and '80s before leaving a cold trail that baffled investigators for more than three decades.

Former police officer Joseph James DeAngelo, 72, was arrested at his home after DNA linked him to crimes attributed to the so-called Golden State Killer and he initially was charged with eight counts of murder and could face dozens more charges, authorities said.

The culprit also known as the East Area Rapist, among other names, is suspected of at least 12 slayings and 50 rapes in 10 counties from Northern to Southern California. The armed and masked prowler sneaked in through windows at night and surprised sleeping victims who ranged in age from 13 to 41.

When encountering a couple, he was known to tie up the man and pile dishes on his back. He threatened to kill both victims if he heard plates crash to the floor while he raped the woman. He then ransacked the house, taking souvenirs, notably coins and jewelry before fleeing on foot or bicycle.

Despite an outpouring of



Authorities search the home of suspect Joseph James DeAngelo, Wednesday, April 25, 2018, in Citrus Heights, Calif. DeAngelo, 72, was taken into custody, Tuesday, on suspicion of committing at least 12 slayings and 45 rapes in the 1970's and 1980's in California. AP

thousands of tips over the years, DeAngelo's name had not been on the radar of law enforcement before last week, Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert said.

"We knew we were looking for a needle in a haystack, but we also knew that needle was there," she said. "It was right here in Sacramento."

A break in the case and the arrest came together in "light speed" during the past six

days, Schubert said, though authorities refused to reveal what led to DeAngelo.

Sacramento Sheriff Scott Jones said detectives with "dogged determination" were able to get a sample of DNA from something DeAngelo discarded, though he wouldn't say what the item was. The genetic material was not a

match, but there were enough similarities for investigators to return for more and they said they were able to get a conclu-

sive match.

After watching DeAngelo for several days, deputies took him by surprise Tuesday.

"It looked as though he might have been searching his mind to execute a particular plan he may have had," but never had time to act, Jones said.

DeAngelo was arrested on suspicion of committing double-killings in Sacramento and Ventura counties and later charged with four counts of

murder in Orange County, officials said.

Ventura County District Attorney Gregory Totten said that before prosecutors decide whether to seek the death penalty, there will be a "solemn and formal death review process that typically takes many months before a decision is made."

DeAngelo, who served in the Navy, was a police officer in Exeter, in the San Joaquin Valley, from 1973 to 1976, at

Tears flow as victims of Waffle House shooting remembered

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Employees at a Waffle House where four people were killed in a weekend shooting rampage wore orange ribbons, hugged each other and wept as the restaurant re-opened. And a steady stream of customers came in to the Nashville restaurant Wednesday to show support.

The parents of Joe Perez, a 20-year-old victim of the Sunday morning shooting, signed four white crosses outside, one of them bearing their son's name and picture.

Company officials said they will donate a month of the restaurant's sales to help the wounded survivors and the families of the slain.

Perez's parents, who came from Texas to mourn him, said they did not want to speak. A woman who was working during the attack, her face still bearing scrapes, said she couldn't speak. She knelt before the four white crosses erected to commemorate the victims.

The dead included Perez and Taurean Sanderlin, 29, who worked at the Waffle House. Sanderlin had been on a cigarette break in the parking lot when

the killer stepped out of his truck brandishing an AR-15 rifle and opened fire. The gunman then stormed the restaurant.

Also killed were Akilah Dasilva, a 23-year-old student at Middle Tennessee State University who was well known to independent musicians and record labels in town, and DeEbony Groves, a 21-year-old student at Belmont University. Four people were also wounded.

Police credit James Shaw Jr., a customer who wrestled the weapon away from the gunman, for averting more bloodshed. The suspect fled after the scuffle with the customer and was captured the following day after a massive manhunt in Antioch, a neighborhood in southeastern Nashville. Police have identified him as Travis Reinking, 29.

Employees got emotional at times Wednesday, but they also thanked the customers for coming back to the restaurant.

"The Waffle House staff have been so wonderful, and I'm not sure I could hold up as well as they are in a situation like this," said Ramona Witt, who lives in

a time a burglar known as the Visalia Ransacker was active, Jones said.

He transferred to the force in Auburn in the Sierra foothills near where he grew up outside Sacramento. About 50 crimes, including two killings, were attributed to the East Area Rapist during the three years DeAngelo worked in Auburn, but Jones said it wasn't clear if any were committed while on duty.

DeAngelo was fired from the Auburn department in 1979 after being arrested for stealing a can of dog repellent and a hammer from a drug store, according to Auburn Journal articles from the time. He was convicted of the theft and fined \$100.

Ten slayings occurred after he was fired and all took place in Southern California.

Although it's unusual for serial killers to stop, Jones said they have no reason to think DeAngelo continued to commit crimes after 1986, when the last rape and killing occurred in Orange County.

Arizona unites to care for, feed kids during teacher strike

PHOENIX (AP)—From gathering gift cards, prepping boxed lunches and opening church doors for child care, communities across Arizona are getting ready for a historic teacher walkout that could keep hundreds of thousands of students out of school indefinitely.

Working parents had a week to figure out where to send their children starting Thursday after teachers voted for an unprecedented statewide strike to push for increased education funding. While tens of thousands of educators rally this week, students will be cared for by friends, family or community organizations.

"Everybody is banding together and helping each other," said Stephanie Barton, an exercise physiologist and Phoenix mom of two.

She will send her kids to a church while she and her husband are at work. Others are leaving their children with stay-at-home parents who offered to help or are taking advantage of day camps that sprung up statewide.

Volunteers also are busy gathering food for students who rely on free meals at school and collecting gift cards for hourly workers who won't be paid while schools shut down.

The walkout is the climax of a teacher uprising that began weeks ago with the grassroots #RedforEd movement that spread from West Virginia, Oklahoma and Kentucky. It has moved most recently to Colorado, where widespread teacher walkouts Thursday and Friday will shut down schools.

In Arizona, the action grew from red shirts and protests to costly demands: a 20 percent raise for teachers, about \$1 billion to return school funding to pre-Great Recession levels and increased pay for support staff, among other things.

Republican Gov. Doug Ducey offered teachers the pay bump by 2020, but they say his plan didn't address their other demands and are concerned, along with lawmakers, about where the money might come from.

Ducey doubled down on his plan Wednesday, telling Phoe-

nix new station KSAZ-TV that he's working with lawmakers and has proposed an additional \$100 million for K-12 education that schools can use to address other demands.

"I'm hopeful we will have a vote on this this week, as soon as possible," he said.

Nearly 80 percent of teachers voted for the first-ever statewide strike, though it could put them at risk in the right-to-work state without many union protections.

A 1971 Arizona attorney general opinion says a statewide strike would be illegal under common law and participants could lose their teaching credentials. But no school district has said they would fire educators who walk out or revoke teaching certificates.

Some districts have said they will try to stay open if they have enough staff, but the walkout has left Barton and other parents scrambling. Still, she supports the action.

"Teachers deserve a raise but also to get funding for the schools to meet their basic needs," Barton said.

the neighborhood and came out to support the victims.

It was the employees who wanted to get the restaurant up and running again, Waffle House spokesman Pat Warner said.

"I think it's part of the healing process for them," Warner said.

Reinking was wearing nothing but a green jacket and brandishing the assault-style rifle when he attacked the restaurant, police say.

He faces multiple criminal charges, including four counts of criminal homicide. A public defender listed as his attorney has not responded to an email seeking comment.

Police say they still do not know of a motive for the crime.

The onetime crane operator bounced between states and suffered from delusions, sometimes talking about plans to marry singer Taylor Swift, friends and relatives told authorities.

He was detained by the Secret Service in July after he ventured in to a forbidden area on the White House grounds and demanded to meet President Donald Trump.

Asia

Rival Koreas' leaders face high stakes at historic summit

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—It may lack the punch of President Donald Trump's vow to unleash "fire and fury" and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's "nuclear button" boasts, but the stakes will be high on Friday when Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in sit down on the southern side of the no man's land that forms the world's most heavily armed border.

Kim may never abandon the nuclear weapons that he claims are all that stand between him and annihilation, but if the Koreas and the United States are going to begin stepping away from what, until a few months ago, looked like a real possibility of nuclear war, then Kim and Moon must lay the foundation with a successful summit of their own. The fate of a planned Trump-Kim meeting, possibly next month, is also linked to what happens Friday.

■■■

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Seoul says North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon-Jae-in will plant a tree together and inspect an honor guard after Kim walks across the border for the leaders' historic summit.

South Korea is releasing some details Thursday ahead of the Koreas' third-ever summit being held on the southern side of the border village of Panmunjom on Friday. The talks are expected



AP
South Koreans hold a banner showing the pictures of South Korean President Moon Jae-in, left, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to welcome the planned summit between South and North Koreas near the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, April 26, 2018.

to focus on North Korea's nuclear program.

Moon's chief of staff Im Jong-seok says Moon will meet Kim at the border, inspect the honor guard and then start formal talks. Im says the two leaders will also plant a pine tree together on the borderline, using dirt from both countries' mountains and rivers.

■■■

The rival Koreas' long, bitter history will provide skeptics with ample fodder to

doubt that any real deal can be reached. Since a tenuous Korean War cease-fire took hold in 1953, every major initiative to settle the world's last remaining Cold War standoff has eventually stalled.

So what's the goal? What would "success" look like?

Some sort of progress on nuclear weapons, even if it falls short of a "breakthrough," headlines the list, but there's also, from the North Korean perspective, the "problem" of nearly 30,000 heavily armed U.S. troops stationed in the South, and the failure to agree on a peace treaty formally ending the war, a situation that the North routinely says creates the hostility that makes its own nuclear weapons necessary.

Here is a look at how we got here, what the two sides want, and the chances that a real deal can be achieved:

FROM THREATS TO TALKS

Moon, a liberal who cut his political teeth as a lead architect of a previous government's "sunshine policy" of engagement with North Korea, came into office last year hoping for better ties with the North. Instead, one of the most heated North Korean weapons-testing outbursts in recent memory forced him to follow Washington in ramping up pressure on the North.

Then, in January, Kim began a charm offensive by declaring that North Korea had "achieved the goal of completing our state nuclear force" and opening the door to diplomacy. Analysts believe that

North Korean technicians still have some work to do to make this a fact, but the important thing, from Moon's viewpoint, was the shift to engagement.

The Olympic Games in the South Korean mountain resort of Pyeongchang in February provided the perfect backdrop for that diplomacy to flourish. Kim sent his sister to Pyeongchang with a summit invitation for Moon, and the two Koreas marched together at the opening ceremony and formed a single women's hockey team.

During a visit by a high-level South Korean official to North Korea, Kim reportedly announced that he wouldn't need nuclear weapons if his government's security could be guaranteed and external threats were removed. He also reportedly offered to meet with Trump and stop weapons testing as the diplomacy plays out.

After learning from South Korea of Kim's offer to meet, Trump shocked the world by accepting.

WHERE'S THIS HAPPENING?

The short answer: Someplace where Kim won't feel entirely comfortable.

Succeed or fail, there will be some indelible images from this summit as the North Korean leader ventures out of his stronghold in Pyongyang and onto what is technically South Korean soil—the first of the three Kim family rulers to cross the border since the Korean War.

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controlled Peace House on the southern side of the Demilitarized Zone, in the border village of Panmunjom, Kim will walk across the border, and then inspect with Moon a South Korean honor guard, near the spot where a defecting North Korean soldier recently fled south in a hail of bullets fired by his former comrades.

Panmunjom is about 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Seoul and the site of the signing of the armistice that ended fighting in 1953—but not the war, which technically continues to this day. Staging the summit there gives Moon a bit of a home-field advantage, but the South Korean president seems intent on making sure Kim feels at ease, and has sequestered most of the media far away.

WHO WANTS WHAT?

Here's where it gets complicated.

North Korea may want to use its new nuclear muscle, and the legitimacy it believes a Trump meeting will bestow, to win a peace treaty that ends the Korean War and eventually drives U.S. forces off the Korean Peninsula. It presumably hopes that will pave the way, in time, for a unified Korea that's led by the North and is beholden to neither the United States nor China.

That's one strain of thinking for the North's long-term dream, anyway; under current circumstances it's not likely that Washington would leave, given the bloodshed that occurred the last time North Korea thought there was a vacuum of power on the peninsula in

1950 and invaded the South.

In the short term, the skeptical argument goes that if the North can dangle disarmament in a series of meetings that follows these two summits, it could win more time—and an easing of crippling sanctions—to push forward in perfecting its weapons, while also collecting aid and concessions for nuclear promises that will never be met.

Seoul, on the other hand, wants to control the process, especially after the last year, when Trump repeatedly threatened a war that would overwhelmingly kill Koreans.

"We are preparing to take the leading role in a great transition in world history—a complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the establishment of a permanent peace and the sustainable development of relations between the South and North," Moon said recently.

COULD THEY GET A REAL DEAL?

It is very unlikely that Kim is ready to give up his nuclear weapons—the benchmark for any real breakthrough on the Korean Peninsula. Kim, after all, is portraying his nation as finally being able, after years of suffering, to meet the United States as a nuclear equal.

But there are other measurements of success, and proponents of engagement say you'll never know what's possible until you sit down and talk.

Already the Koreas have set up a leaders' hotline, a big deal for countries that still spend a lot of time either not talking, aside from war threats, or communicating by fax.

One possible "get" could be if North Korea offers to freeze its weapons as a first step toward denuclearization, according to Robert Manning, a former State Department official, and James Przystup, with the National Defense University's Institute for National Strategic Studies. But, they wrote, Seoul and Washington must make clear that any freeze needs to come with unfettered U.N. inspections and visible dismantling of the North's nuclear infrastructure.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesian oil well fire kills 18 people, injures dozens

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A newly drilled unregulated oil well in western Indonesia exploded into flames early Wednesday, burning 18 people to death and injuring dozens of others. National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said the well in Pasir Putih village in eastern Aceh province ignited at about 1:30 a.m. and firefighters were still struggling to extinguish the flames late in the afternoon. Five nearby houses were engulfed by the inferno. Sutopo said the 250-meter (820-foot)-deep well was gushing when it ignited and many people were nearby trying to collect the oil. He said 41 people had been admitted to three hospitals. "I woke up when a very loud explosion shook our house like an earthquake," said 16-year-old Riska Sri Maulidiyati.

Train hits school bus at India crossing, killing 12 children

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Police say at least 12 children were killed when a train crashed into their school bus at an unmanned railroad crossing in northern India. Top police officer O.P. Singh says the bus driver also was killed in Thursday's accident. Another 12 children were injured in the crash and taken to a hospital in Kushinagar, a town 200 kilometers (125 miles) southeast of Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh state. The children were on their way to school when the train hit the bus. Accidents are common on India's railroad network, one of the world's largest with 23 million people riding daily on about 11,000 passenger trains. There are hundreds of unmanned crossings across the country. Poor finances limit efforts by rail authorities to staff the dangerous crossings around the clock.

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To get to the South Korean-

World

Toronto van attack throws spotlight on anti-woman vitriol

TORONTO (AP)—The deadly van rampage in Toronto is training attention on an online world of sexual loneliness, rage and misogyny after the suspect invoked an uprising by “involuntary celibates” and gave a shoutout to a California killer who seethed at women for rejecting him.

The world of self-described “incels,” where sexual frustrations boil over into talk of violent revenge against women, has become a virtual home for some socially isolated men like the 25-year-old computer science student charged in Monday’s carnage on Toronto’s busiest thoroughfare.

Minutes before plowing a rented van into a crowd of mostly women, killing 10 people and injuring 14, suspect Alek Minassian posted a Facebook message that seemed to offer one of the few clues so far to what was on his mind. “The Incel Rebellion has already begun!” it read.

Police confirmed Minassian posted the message but have declined so far to discuss a motive for the attack as they continue investigating. But the post has revived concerns about the anti-woman vitriol embraced by California mass killer Elliot Rodger and invoked by Minassian in his post.

The incel community is “one of the most violent areas of the internet,” said Heidi Beirich, who tracks hate groups for the Southern Poverty Law Center. “It may seem to some people that this is kind of a group of pathetic, victimized white males who just are lonely. It’s not. It’s ugly.”

Yet some incel sites insist they don’t condone violence or misogyny. And Judith Taylor, a University of Toronto professor who focuses on social movements, notes that some participants in incel dis-



Signs are left at a vigil on Yonge Street in Toronto, Tuesday, April 24, 2018, after multiple people were killed and others injured in Monday's deadly attack in which a van struck pedestrians on a Toronto sidewalk. AP

cussions simply feel forsaken, while others “can become very graphic and very toxic.”

Until Monday, Minassian had a life that never attracted authorities’ attention.

Living with his family in suburban Toronto, he studied at nearby Seneca College, where some fellow students told news media he had a way with computers. He briefly joined the military last year but asked to leave recruit training after just 16 days, according to Canada’s Department of National Defence.

As a teen, he had an awkward personality, those who knew him then said.

“He was known to meow like a cat and try to bite people,” though he never was violent, wrote Alexander Alexandrovitch, who said in a Facebook post that he went to

high school with Minassian.

Others said Minassian had struggled socially, especially with women.

He’d intone, “I’m afraid of girls,” former high school classmate, Ari Blaff, told news media. Another classmate, Josh Kirstein, told The New York Times that Minassian “would cower and avoid eye contact when he saw a girl. ... He would shut down completely.”

More recently, people in Minassian’s neighborhood saw him as a somewhat withdrawn figure. On walks around his neighborhood, he would talk to himself and looked straight ahead, not acknowledging passers-by, neighbor Saeid Farokhkhish said.

Local pizzeria manager Aman Enshai recalled Minassian came in a couple

of nights a week for a slice but never said much.

Minassian’s family hasn’t commented on him or the murder and attempted murder charges against him. His father, Vahe Minassian, looked distraught and only said, “I’m sorry,” as he left a courthouse Tuesday. It’s not clear whether Minassian has a lawyer who will represent him as the case progresses.

Whatever emerges about his mindset and alleged motivations, his mention of an “incel rebellion” immediately put the virtual community under scrutiny. Discussion forums buzzed with reactions—some celebratory, some shocked, many wary of the attention.

The “involuntary celibate” identity dates to the 1990s, coined by a Canadian woman aiming to launch a supportive

exchange about sexual solitude, according to Taylor.

But over time, “incel” has become a buzzword for certain men infuriated at being rejected by women and prone to float ideas for violent payback, according to sociologists and others who follow incel circles.

Participants “see feminism, and women in general, as a reason their lives are so difficult,” said Maxime Fiset, a self-described former neo-Nazi who now tracks extremist websites for the Montreal-based Center for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence.

Forums are laced with suggestions that at least some of the discussions are merely satire or a way of blowing off steam.

But the site Reddit shut down one popular incel forum last year, after announcing a ban on content that calls for violence or physical harm.

Bailey Poland, the author of a 2016 book about online misogyny, says the talk of brutality is risky, whatever the posters’ intentions.

It’s “contributing to an environment where that kind of violence is seen as normal and acceptable. So even if you have no actual intent to do that, someone who does is going to see those posts and think they’re not alone,” said Poland, a doctoral student in rhetoric at Bowling Green State University.

Rodger, a 22-year-old community college student, killed six people and wounded more than a dozen others in shooting and stabbing attacks near the University of California, Santa Barbara before killing himself in 2014. He had railed in a manifesto and online videos about women who shunned him and called for an incel “overthrow” of what he saw as feminist domination.



Chemical weapons team gathers more samples from Syrian town

BEIRUT (AP)—Inspectors from the global chemical weapons watchdog made a second visit Wednesday to a Syrian town hit by an alleged chemical attack, collecting samples from a new location that will be sent to designated labs for analysis.

The suspected poison gas attack in Douma on April 7 has sparked an ongoing clash of narratives between the West and the governments of Syria and its key ally, Russia. Damascus and Moscow insist there was no chemical weapons attack.

A Syrian filmmaker accused Russian state media of using images from the set

of his 2016 movie to claim that the attack was staged by the West.

“I think it’s a desperate and cheap attempt by Russian TV to deny the obvious attack of Douma,” said Humam Hsasari, speaking of the images that appeared Sunday on two Russian state-run channels.

Opposition activists and first responders who witnessed the attack in Douma, which was under rebel control at the time, say it was carried out by government forces and killed more than 40 people, many of them suffocating in an underground shelter where they were hiding from government airstrikes. The

U.S., France and Britain also blamed the Syrian government and launched joint punitive airstrikes targeting suspected Syrian chemical weapons facilities on April 14.

Syria’s government and Russia have denied responsibility for the chemical attack. They have repeatedly blamed the rebels and opposition activists for possessing and deploying chemical weapons.

Russia had even said the attack was staged. On Wednesday, Russian diplomats said they plan to bring evidence of this to the Organization of the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Russian Embassy spokesman Mikhail Sobolev

said it would bring a group of 15 Syrians who they claim were filmed in “staged videos” of the alleged attack to a meeting at the OPCW on Thursday.

Russia’s Defense Ministry has also accused Britain of direct involvement in staging video images of alleged victims. Britain vehemently denies the accusation.

The OPCW said samples collected by its team in Douma will be sent to its labs for analysis.

An earlier visit took place Saturday after the inspectors were delayed for days from getting to the town, just east of Damascus, for security reasons.

Central American asylum seeking caravan reaches US border

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)—About 130 Central Americans, mostly women and children, have arrived at the U.S. border with Mexico in a “caravan” of asylum-seeking immigrants that has drawn the fury of President Donald Trump.

Two busloads arrived late Tuesday in the Mexican border city of Tijuana at two migrant shelters just steps from one of the most fortified stretches of border separating the U.S. from Mexico. They joined another 50 or so who arrived in Tijuana over the last week or two.

Four more busloads of about 200 Central Americans—mostly women and children but including some men,

were expected to arrive in Tijuana Wednesday, said Alex Mensing, project coordinator for Pueblos Sin Fronteras, which is organizing the effort.

U.S. lawyers planned to lead clinics later this week on U.S. asylum law to tell them what to expect when they seek asylum. The first groups are expected to try to enter the U.S. on Sunday at a border crossing in San Diego.

Trump and senior aides have portrayed the caravans and the asylum seekers as evidence of a dysfunctional border and a serious threat. The president tweeted this week that he has issued orders “not to let these large Caravans of people into our Country. It is a disgrace.”

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police try to unlock phone with dead man's finger in Florida

LARGO, Fla. (AP)—Florida authorities went to a funeral home and used a dead man's finger to try to unlock his cellphone as part of their investigation. Thirty-year-old Linus Phillip was killed by a Largo police officer last month after authorities say he tried to drive away before an officer could search him. At the funeral home, two detectives held the man's hands up to the phone's fingerprint sensor but could not unlock it. Phillip's fiancee Victoria Armstrong says she felt violated and disrespected. Legal experts mostly agree that what the detectives did was legal, but they question whether it was appropriate. Charles Rose, a professor at Stetson University College of Law, tells the Tampa Bay Times that dead people can't assert their Fourth Amendment protections because you can't own property when you're dead. But those rights could apply to whoever inherits the property.

Texas man sentenced to 50 years for \$1.2M theft of fajitas

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP)—A Texas man has been sentenced to 50 years in prison for stealing \$1.2 million worth of fajitas over nine years. Fifty-three-year-old Gilberto Escamilla was sentenced Friday after pleading guilty to theft by a public servant. The Brownsville Herald reports he told the court the fajita scheme spun out of control. Escamilla had been intercepting fajitas that he ordered through the Cameron County juvenile center where he worked and delivering them to his own customers. His scam was uncovered when he missed work for a medical appointment and an 800-pound (360-kilogram) fajita delivery arrived at the center, which doesn't serve fajitas. Escamilla was fired in August and arrested after authorities checked vendor invoices and obtained a search warrant that uncovered county-funded fajitas in his refrigerator.

Woman gets prison for using someone else's tainted urine

ST. CLAIRSVILLE, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio woman might want to ask some

questions if she tries to borrow someone's urine again to pass a drug test. WTOV-TV reports 24-year-old Kianna Wallace was sentenced to 18 months in prison Monday, in eastern Ohio's Belmont County, after submitting a borrowed urine sample that tested positive for drugs. Wallace pleaded guilty earlier this month to attempted tampering with evidence. Judge Frank Frejato called the failed urine swap "bizarre" and told Wallace he wouldn't allow her to make a mockery of the drug and alcohol testing system. Records show Wallace was sentenced to six months in jail followed by probation in January 2017 for drug possession.

Museum realizes collection's rare elephant bird egg is real

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—A Buffalo museum has made a rare discovery within its own collection: a fully intact egg from the extinct elephant bird that until now, was thought to be fake. Curators at the Buffalo Museum of Science were cataloging pieces in the museum's collection when they realized and confirmed that the foot-tall egg had been mislabeled as a model. Measuring 28 inches (71 centimeters) around, it weighs more than 3 pounds (1.4 kilograms). Experts say there are fewer than 40 intact elephant bird eggs held in public institutions. The flightless elephant bird was native to Madagascar. It grew to be 10 feet (3 meters) tall, weighed between 770 (349 kilograms) and 1,100 pounds (499 kilograms) and laid the largest eggs of any vertebrate, including dinosaurs. The museum will unveil the egg to the public May 1.

Kansas City suburb: Half-car joke an 'eyesore' and must go

EDGERTON, Kan. (AP)—A Kansas City suburb is pressuring the owner of a cut-in-half car adorned with a sign reading, "Divorced. She got Ω," to junk the junker. The Kansas City Star reports that the half-car was created as a joke by the late-Edgerton Mayor Ray Braun who used to own the defunct gas station where the front part of the 1987 Chevrolet Citation is parked. Braun fitted the half-car with rear

caster wheels and used to drive it in parades. Danny O'Neal now owns the property where the vehicle sits. But City Council President Clay Longanecker says the car has become "an eyesore" and the Edgerton codes department has told O'Neal to dispose of it. O'Neal plans to argue it's a "landmark" and memorial to Braun. Neither man was ever divorced.

Dream job: Harley-Davidson paid interns get a motorcycle too

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Harley-Davidson is offering free motorcycles for those who join its summer internship program. Eight college students or recent graduates will have the enviable task of being paid to ride a Harley and share their adventures on social media. And the best part? They'll keep their bikes at the end of the 12-week internship. The Milwaukee-based motorcycle maker says it will teach the interns how to ride, compensate them for their work and travels, and let them keep their motorcycles. Harley-Davidson says it's looking for those that have the ability to create content on the fly, are creative and have the talent to take great photos and fun videos. Applicants must be 18 years or older and looking to pursue a career in social media.

Dog bites police horse participating in mounted unit event

WILMERDING, Pa. (AP)—Authorities say a dog in a yard near a police mounted unit event in Pennsylvania escaped and bit one of the participating horses on its legs. Allegheny County police say its mounted unit and one from Pittsburgh were in Wilmerding on Wednesday to talk to a citizens group about the duties and responsibilities of the units. Police say a dog that hadn't been properly secured escaped from a yard and bit a Pittsburgh police horse named Jack, leaving the animal with puncture wounds on his front legs and near his back legs. The dog was quarantined while officials tried to determine whether it was up to date with all vaccinations. A vet examined the horse, which appeared to be experiencing no further problems. Police are reviewing the incident.

The Krack (Key Reinstallation Attack) vulnerability sent shivers through the tech community because it revealed a basic security flaw in the WPA2 encryption technology used by most consumer Wi-Fi devices (see tinyurl.com/yah6gous and

Science & Technology

Poll says younger Americans are less apt to use unique passwords

By FRANK BAJAK
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

The number of online accounts compromised by hackers is now in the trillions—enough, perhaps, to make even technophobes think hard about the security of their passwords. Indeed, many are—especially older Americans, a new survey shows.

Start with the now-familiar advice to avoid reusing the same password across important accounts such as email, banking and social media. A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that 41 percent of Americans say they use unique passwords for most or all online services. Just a third of adults under age 45 do so, however, compared to about half their elders.

Anyone who reuses a password increases their chances of falling victim to data theft—a serious risk given such major breaches as the hacks that compromised



This June 19, 2017, file photo shows fingers on laptop keyboard in North Andover, Mass. Americans appear to be heeding expert advice for keeping their passwords and accounts safe. AP

three billion Yahoo accounts in 2013. Hackers often test big batches of passwords stolen in one breach against other potentially sensitive accounts, a practice called "credential stuffing."

Older Americans are also more likely to commit their passwords to paper, the poll found. Fifty-six percent of people aged 60 and older do so, compared to 20 percent of the under-30 crowd. If I see something really cool, then I'll make it a password."

TECH Q&A: Wi-Fi worries solved by update

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I bought a Linksys router and then switched our computers and phones (but not our Roku TV device) to Norton security software. Recently, my wife and I received Norton warnings on our phones that our Wi-Fi had been compromised, even though Norton also showed that our Wi-Fi had strong encryption. Then I read that the Russians have for years penetrated Western computer networks, and that even homes are at risk (see tinyurl.com/yctqzkp). Have we been affected?

A: Probably not. The Norton warning most likely means that your Wi-Fi router hasn't been updated to protect against the "Krack" security vulnerability that was discovered last year. Updating the router's software should resolve the issue.

The Krack (Key Reinstallation Attack) vulnerability sent shivers through the tech community because it revealed a basic security flaw in the WPA2 encryption technology used by most consumer Wi-Fi devices (see tinyurl.com/yah6gous and

written passwords are generally considered a good idea.

"I don't use the same password for any two sites," said Stephanie Harris, a 61-year-old retired warehouse manager in Sacramento, California. She shops and banks on the internet and chooses her passwords from "things I like to do, things I like to eat. Never anybody's name because I'm not into that. If I see something really cool,

then I'll make it a password."

OneDrive and EEventManager Application. What's going on?

A: Most of the RAM is probably being used by Microsoft's Edge browser, which consumes a lot of memory, even when a PC is idle.

Why? The Edge browser and the Windows 10 Cortana digital assistant operate together in the background of your PC, reporting back to Microsoft the data that Cortana collects on your Web browsing. To minimize this activity, clear the browsing data collected by Edge and alter Cortana's settings (see tinyurl.com/yake8zk9).

In your Wi-Fi network, the Linksys router may be the last device to need one of these software updates. You can use your router's controls to update its software manually, or to set up automatic updates (see tinyurl.com/yct3pn9u). Or you can download an update from a Linksys website devoted to fixing the Krack vulnerability (see tinyurl.com/yd9k4cpg).

"EEventManager Application" is Epson printer software. But some malware masquerades as the Epson program, and malware can boost RAM memory use. For safety, run the free version of the Malwarebytes security program (see tinyurl.com/jsdacdk).

In Loving Memory of
†MIRIAM K. SEMAN

*Saipan World Resort
would like
to extend its
deepest condolences
to the family.*



In Loving Memory Miriam Kaipat Seman

"Kit" or "Kitalang"

Born to Life: December 04, 1949
Called to eternal life: April 23, 2018

Miriam now joins her:

Husband: Vicente Taman Seman

Sons: Melvin & Jesse Kaipat Seman

Parents: Cypriano Rogolifoi Kaipat, Ana Kapileo Villagomez Nekai
& Francisco Nekai "Lulung"

Parents in Law: Juan McGuinnes Seman & Esperanza Taman Seman

Maternal Grand Parents: Felicidad Kapileo & Joaquin Seman Villagomez "Kiyu"

Paternal Grand Parents: Maria Luwairigh Rogolofoi & Jesus Satoliigh Kaipat

Miriam was survived by her:

Children & Grandchildren:

Miriam (Rosann, Florence, Tilischughitt)

Arnold & June Ella (Terina, Kayleena, AJ, Benji)

Marvin & Maria Esther (Kimo, Tommy, Darien)

†Jesse & Tiara (Jasseline, Jessie Mae, Jeszrae, Junior, Ty, Calia, Wilgene Jr)

Leona & Paul (Damon, JV, Deizha, Ana, Stryker)

Great-Grandchildren: A'Lana, Ayden, Carmelo, Ava, Keanu

Sisters: Felicidad Kaipat Ogumoro & family

Dionicia Villagomez Kaipat Wabol & family

Miriam will also be missed by numerous cousins, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, godchildren, relatives, colleagues and friends.

Daily mass is being offered at San Jose Parish at 6:00am. Nightly rosary is being held at 7:00pm at the family residence on middle road Chalan Laulau. The wake for Miriam will be on Monday, April 30, 2018 at the family residence after being escorted from CHCC at 3:00pm. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 10:00am followed by an interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

"Your poise, style and courage will remain forever etched in our hearts. May the countless prayers continue to robe you in the mantle of God's Mercy and Grace."

Thank you to all who have sincerely shown their kind expression of sympathy and thoughtfulness.
It is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered by the family of Miriam Kaipat Seman.



Life & Style

Oh, Yeezus: Trump and Kanye West trade Twitter love

Trump-West 2020? In a moment that seemed to encapsulate 2018's social media-driven blurring of celebrity and politics, President Donald Trump tweeted his thanks to rap superstar Kanye West on Wednesday for his recent and perhaps unexpected online support.

"Thank you Kanye, very cool!" the president posted in response to the tweets from West, who called the president "my brother."

Disney emphasizes China roots in Shanghai amid trade tension

SHANGHAI (AP)—Walt Disney Co. stressed its deep China connections as it opened an extension of Shanghai's \$5.5 billion Disney Resort on Thursday amid escalating tensions over trade and technology between Beijing and Washington.

Disney executives took pains to emphasize that beneath the surface, Shanghai's Disneyland is not purely American and has been a boon to the local economy, providing both jobs and high-quality entertainment.

Disney took an unusually collaborative approach to its Shanghai theme park, which opened in 2016. It handed over a 57 percent ownership stake to its state-owned Chinese partner, the Shanghai Shendi Group.

"We're excited about the fact that we're not an American company just here by ourselves. We're a real collaborative company," Bob Weis, president of Walt Disney Imagineering, which oversaw construction of the park, said.

With Tom Cruise, 'A Quiet Place,' Paramount ready for a comeback

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Paramount Pictures is ready for its comeback story.

On Wednesday at the CinemaCon convention in Las Vegas, studio chairman and CEO Jim Gianopoulos announced a sequel to the breakthrough thriller "A Quiet Place," two new Star Trek movies and trotted out its biggest star, Tom Cruise, to dazzle the audience of theater owners and exhibitors with stories of his death-defying stunts in "Mission: Impossible—Fallout."

"It's no secret we've had some difficult years at the box office," said Gianopoulos in his first presentation as the studio chair to the CinemaCon attendees. For the past few years, the studio has trailed behind the other major Hollywood studios in box office returns.

He said the studio has made

West, the enigmatic hip hop provocateur, posted a series of tweets in support of the president, whom he visited at Trump Tower in December 2016 during the presidential transition.

"You don't have to agree with Trump but the mob can't make me not love him. We are both dragon energy," West wrote Wednesday. "He is my brother. I love everyone. I don't agree with everything anyone does. That's what makes us individuals. And we have the

right to independent thought."

Later, West posted a photo of himself wearing one of Trump's signature red campaign "Make America Great Again" hats and showcased that the president had signed it. "MAGA!" Trump responded in another tweet, using the acronym for his slogan.

West noted that his wife, reality star Kim Kardashian West, wanted him to clarify that he was not in lockstep with all the Republican president's positions.

"My wife just called me and she wanted me to make this clear to everyone," West wrote. "I don't agree with everything Trump does. I don't agree 100% with anyone but myself."

West lent an air of celebrity to Trump, who has not been nearly as popular among movie and music stars as his Democratic predecessor, Barack Obama. He complained about struggling to lure big-name talent to his Inauguration and made a point of calling Rose-

anne Barr, a rare Trump supporter in Hollywood, for the recent success of her sitcom.

Trump has also consistently been supported by a small percentage of black voters.

West has recorded several best-selling albums and produced a buzzy fashion line and has the undeniable talent for attracting attention. He's also been linked to several previous presidents, including when Obama called him "a jackass" in 2009 for storming the stage at an MTV awards

show to interrupt Taylor Swift. And in 2005, during a telethon to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, West criticized the White House's response to the storm by famously charging that "George W. Bush doesn't care about black people."

There was quick backlash to West on Twitter on Wednesday.

"Kanye doesn't care about black people," tweeted comedian Akilah Hughes.

But others were quick to embrace West. (AP)



This image released by 20th Century Fox shows a scene from "Deadpool 2," premiering on May 18. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After being stuck in development for over a decade, "Deadpool" broke box-office records and shattered preconceived notions about what an R-rated superhero movie could do when it debuted in February 2016. Now the foul-mouthed mercenary is back with a sequel that's gearing up to play in the big leagues—the summer movie season.

Star and producer Ryan Reynolds spoke to The Associated Press about what to expect when Deadpool returns to theaters on May 18.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: The first is so wild and jam-packed with everything. Did you hold anything back or save anything thinking that there would be a sequel?

REYNOLDS: Oh my God we put everything out there. We had no pie in the sky notions that we would be guaranteed a sequel after this. But (screenwriters) Rhett (Reese) and Paul (Wernick) and I had been working together for, God, coming on eight years now. We worked on the first script together for years before it even got close to being greenlit and while shooting the first film, we were already coming up with a story for the second one. But at the time it wasn't something that was a reality; it was just something we loved.

I think that at the end of the day the driving force behind "Deadpool" is that there are a great number of people who absolutely love every aspect of it. I think that's what trans-

lates to the audience. There is an authentic joy and love for what we're doing and we have so much fun doing it and you can't help but feel that through the screen.

AP: Is there anything that is off-limits for Deadpool?

REYNOLDS: Not really. To make a great rated-R comic book film you've definitely got to push the boundaries a little bit and we leave that to the editing process to figure out what we want to keep and

AP: How are you feeling

'Deadpool 2' is about kindness (truly)

By LINDSEY BAHR,
AP FILM WRITER

what we don't. Tone is so critical in these movies and at the heart of "Deadpool" is always a very emotional story. You have to circle around that before you think about comedy bits or trying to incite reactions or that sort of thing. So "Deadpool 2" is really, at its core, about how one act of kindness can change the world. It's sort of a nature versus nurture story at its heart and that's critical to the film as a whole. Then you can model which sort of comedic set pieces you want around that. But at the end of the day it's got to be an engrossing story and that's the thing that we were most focused on from the get-go.

AP: That's very sweet and sincere! And here I was thinking the most sincere thing about "Deadpool" was the Wikipedia page. Everything else from the logline to the marketing leans into the irreverence of it.

leading up to the release? With a summer date, it's playing in the big leagues now.

REYNOLDS: For us that's been a dream come true as well. Having "Deadpool" positioned as a summer movie gives us a little more license to go a bit bigger, but at the same time our budgets are not comparable to some of the big Marvel movies. But necessity is the mother of invention so the less we have, the more creative we have to get. It has all the same principles and tenets as the first film which Dave Leitch loved and really wanted to honor, but at the same time there's a different flavor to it as well because Dave likes to keep major action in the lens as opposed to relying more on CGI.

It still has this kind of down and dirty feel, which I love, but it also has so many elements that I think are going to blow audiences away and surprise people. I'm super

excited about it. Right now we're just focusing in on the marketing campaign which for "Deadpool" is always to a certain degree an extension of the film itself. We get to have as much fun with the marketing as we do with the actual shooting of the movie. I'm excited to put out some of the things we have ready to go in terms of the marketing.

AP: From the studio behind "27 Dresses," right?

REYNOLDS: Absolutely, yeah. If you loved "Alvin and the Chipmunks," you are going to love "Deadpool."

AP: Do you feel like this has to do better than the first to be a success?

REYNOLDS: I don't really think about it like that. I'd be naive to not pay attention to some of the biz part of the showbiz but I know that the movie is made at a budget that makes it pretty reasonable for all parties involved and when we keep the budget down, the studio gives us a lot more play and leeway to do the things that we want to do and that's always great. So, no, I don't think it has to do better, necessarily.

AP: Will the film honor Jai Harris in any way? (Stuntwoman Jai Harris died while filming "Deadpool 2").

REYNOLDS: Oh absolutely yeah.

AP: Are you and the producers going to address T.J. Miller at all, since he's been in the headlines recently?

REYNOLDS: You know, I think you've got to ask T.J. Miller about that, he's an expert on T.J. Miller.

Jury focuses on Cosby's star witness; his lawyers face heat

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Jurors in Bill Cosby's sexual assault retrial are kicking off a second day of deliberations by revisiting the testimony of a star defense witness who said accuser Andrea Constand once spoke of framing a prominent person to score a big payday.

The seven men and five women will have Marguerite Jackson's testimony read back to them when court resumes on Thursday, after a marathon, 10-hour first day of deliberations failed to yield a verdict in the first big celebrity trial of the #MeToo era.

Exhausted jurors called it a

night after rehearing excerpts from Cosby's old deposition testimony.

They included his version of what happened the night Constand says he drugged her with three pills and molested her at his suburban Philadelphia home in January 2004, and his admission that he gave quaaludes to women he wanted to have sex with in the 1970s.

Cosby gave the deposition more than a decade ago as part of Constand's civil suit against him, which he settled in 2006 for nearly \$3.4 million.

He has said his encounter

with Constand was consensual.

Constand, a former Temple University sports administrator, was in the courtroom on Wednesday as jurors asked to reheat Jackson's testimony that she mused about fabricating sexual assault allegations to "get that money" from a civil suit.

Jackson, an academic adviser at the school, testified for about 1½ hours last week. She was immediately challenged by prosecutors who produced travel records suggesting she wasn't on the Feb. 1, 2004 women's basketball trip to Rhode Island where she says

the conversation took place.

As jurors started weighing charges that could put Cosby in prison for the rest of his life, the 80-year-old comedian's lawyers came under fire for what some called a blatant attempt to "victim-shame" women who've leveled accusations against him.

In their closing argument after two weeks of testimony, Cosby's lawyers launched a withering attack on Constand and five other women who told the jury that the former TV star had drugged and assaulted them, too.

Defense attorney Kathleen Bliss chastised Constand for "cavorting around with a married man old enough to be her grandfather." She derided the other women as homewreckers and suggested they made up their stories in a bid for money and fame.

She questioned the "personal morality" of one accuser and called another, model Janice Dickinson, a "failed starlet" and "aged-out model" who "sounds as though she slept with every man on the planet."

And she slammed the #MeToo movement itself,

calling Cosby its victim and likening it to a witch hunt or a lynching.

"They're playing on the same old myths that have been protecting perpetrators for centuries," said Kristen Houser of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. She said the defense's closing argument was filled with "rampant and ingrained" misconceptions about sexual assault and victim behavior.

"It was not only an attack on these six accusers," Houser said, "it was a verbal slap to survivors all across this country."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

A new George RR Martin book planned—but not THAT book

NEW YORK (AP)—As the world awaits his next "A Song of Ice and Fire," George RR Martin has begun a new project. Random House announced Wednesday that a prequel to the "Ice and Fire" series is coming out November 20. The book is called "Fire and Blood" and it's the first of two planned works the publisher is calling "the definitive history of the Targaryens in Westeros." Meanwhile, about that OTHER book, Martin says don't expect anything in 2018. Fans for years have been seeking news about when Martin will complete "The Winds of Winter," the sixth book in his fantasy series. His response on Wednesday: "You'll have to keep waiting." The "Ice and Fire" novels have sold millions of copies and are the basis for HBO's "Game of Thrones."

peii's ruins has revealed the skeleton of a crouching child who perished in Mount Vesuvius' eruption in A.D. 79. Pompeii's director Massimo Osanna said in a statement Wednesday that the skeleton, believed to be of a 7- or 8-year-old child, was found during work in February to shore up the main ancient baths in the sprawling archaeological site. The skeleton was removed on Tuesday from the baths' area for study, including DNA testing to determine the sex. Osanna said it appears the skeleton might have been first spotted during a 19th-century excavation of the area, since the leg bones were orderly placed near the pelvis, but, for reasons unclear, wasn't removed by those earlier archaeologists. Experts think deadly volcanic gases killed the child.

DeLorean widow sues for 'Back to the Future' payments

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—The widow of maverick automaker John DeLorean has alleged in a lawsuit that a Texas company

illegally received money from the "Back to the Future" movies that used his iconic car. The sleek, angular car with gull-wing doors known simply as "the DeLorean," was featured in the 1985 movie starring Michael J. Fox and a 1989 sequel, about a kid who travels back in time to engineer his parents' meeting. The lawsuit filed this week in federal court in Newark includes a contract with Universal from 1989 that gave DeLorean 5 percent of net receipts for any merchandising that featured the car and logo "as a key component." According to the suit, the Texas company, called DeLorean Motor Company, represented to Universal that it had the right to the money and has already received "a substantial payment" from Universal. The Texas company isn't affiliated with the one DeLorean started. Sally DeLorean, who lives in New Jersey, settled a lawsuit in 2015 allowing the company to use the DeLorean name and trademarks. That agreement didn't transfer contractual rights to the company, the current lawsuit contends.

John Cena says he still loves ex-fiancee Nikki Bella

LAS VEGAS (AP)—John Cena says he still loves Nikki Bella after their sudden split earlier this month. "I love Nicole with all my heart, and the split is very tough," the wrestler-turned-actor told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "But that's life. We all go through highs, we all go through lows. I'm going to get through it. I love her. I'll always love her. The fact that my heart hurts for her—I know I was in love. So I'll always have that." The 41-year-old performer was promoting the "Transformers" spinoff movie "BumbleBee" at CinemaCon, the Las Vegas convention for theatre owners. The couple had been together for six years and got engaged a year ago on live TV during the WWE's Wrestlemania. They often took their relationship public, canoodling on red carpets and talking about each other in interviews. Cena has made a successful transition from the WWE to acting, appearing in movies like "Trainwreck" and the recent R-rated

comedy "Blockers." Bella stars in a reality TV show on E! called "Total Bellas" with her twin sister, Brie.

Uma Thurman, Patty Griffin among readers at poetry tribute

NEW YORK (AP)—As Uma Thurman rose from her chair during a poetry tribute at Lincoln Center, she turned and bowed to the reader who preceded her, visual artist Lorna Simpson. "That's called when the evening peaks," Thurman said Wednesday night after Simpson had completed June Jordan's "Poem About My Rights," an impassioned statement of resilience in the face of male violence and oppression. With such lines "I am the history of battery assault and limitless armies/armies against whatever I want to do with my mind," the 40-year-old poem inspired by women in the apartheid system of South Africa seemed as modern as the #MeToo movement and Thurman's recent allegations of abuse by Harvey Weinstein. Thurman was the final reader at "Poetry & the Creative Mind," a tribute to National Poetry

Month and to the power of art to speak across time.

Member of Japan all-male pop group investigated in sex case

TOKYO (AP)—A member of the popular Japanese all-male pop group Tokio has acknowledged he is facing a criminal investigation related to an allegedly indecent act with a teenage girl. The 46-year-old Tatsuya Yamaguchi apologized Thursday and said he would suspend work with his band and other entertainment projects. The organizers of Tokyo's 2020 Olympics say Yamaguchi and other members of the group are working as "special ambassadors" on an Olympic and Paralympic Flag Tour project. The Organizing Committee and the Tokyo metropolitan government are co-sponsors. In the last few weeks, a top Finance Ministry bureaucrat has resigned over sexually suggestive remarks to a female reporter, and the governor of Niigata prefecture stepped down after acknowledging he gave cash and gifts to women he dated.

Friends push single woman to date, but offer no help

DEAR ABBY: I'm 37 and still single. I have never been able to keep a guy around very long. They have all given me different reasons, but the main theme is that I'm "too independent and better as a friend." I've kept some of my exes as friends, so there haven't been hard feelings.

I have accepted that I'm going to always be alone. I have come to terms with it and made a fairly decent life for myself. My issue is, everyone keeps insisting there's someone out there for me. But when I've asked them to help set me up on dates or introduce me to a friend, they haven't been willing, even though they've done it for others many times.

I "get" that I'm fat and not attractive, so maybe they don't think I'm worthy of dating their guy friends. But how do I get them to stop pushing me to date, especially when they won't help?

I also hate it when they ask me why I'm not a mom yet when I would be such a good one. Uh, hello! It takes two to make a baby!

I have lost friends over this since it's tough to hang around with people who pity me for being solo and can't accept me for who I am. What do I do?

LONELY, BUT OK

DEAR LONELY: Tell these friends you know they think they are trying to help when they say these things, but the

truth is it makes you feel terrible and to please stop.

Next, recognize that the time has come to enlarge your circle of friends. While it's true there may be a special someone out there for you, the chances are slim to none that he'll find you hanging out with this group.

You are by far not the only overweight individual in this great nation of ours, and many of them are happily coupled up. Nobody has everything. People who focus on their positive qualities and make an effort to develop them are attractive. If you stop dwelling on your perceived flaws and work to develop the things you have to offer, the results may surprise you. (This goes for both sexes.)

DEAR ABBY: I am surprising my husband for his 40th birthday with a guys' trip. All of his best friends, except one, live out of state, and one lives out of the country. I am delighted that they are willing to fly in for his birthday. He's going to be so excited.

My dilemma lies in what to do about the hotel costs. I offered to pay for a room for them to share for the weekend. However, one member of the group insists on paying for his share of the room. The others haven't said anything yet.

If they offer to pay for the room, should I let them? Or should I insist on paying because the trip was my idea? I don't want

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



anyone to feel obligated to spend so much money since they are all paying their own airfares, which they insisted on.

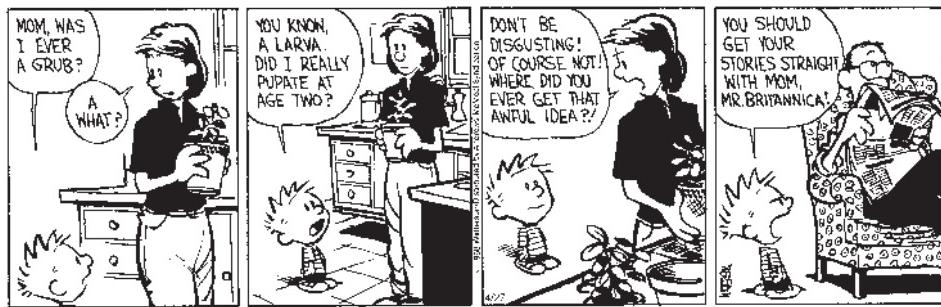
SURPRISED IN THE WEST

DEAR SURPRISED: I'm sure your husband's friends are pleased that you planned the birthday reunion. If they offer to pay for the room they will be sharing, you should let them. However, if anyone does not make the offer, pay his portion.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



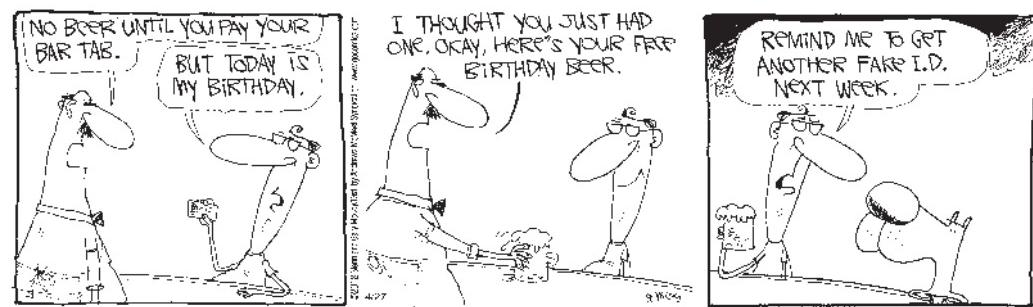
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35	Flair	21	Scrambled wd.
1	Iota	36	Unpaid bills	22
4	Fork	37	Para-trooper's need	Olympic track star
8	Annoys	38	"Sister Carrie"	Bolt
12	Fireplace residue	39	author Dreiser	Roasting rod
13	Not busy	40	Corn Belt state	Wry Bombeck
14	Postal delivery	41	Galley supply	More mature
15	Actor	42	Anise-flavored liqueur	Valhalla VIP
17	Heap	43	Flavored liqueur	Pie mode
18	Ready for customers	44	Engine sound	Lair
19	Underneath	45	Spring	Block
20	Doppler device	46	"Ben—"	Metric weight
22	Second-hand	47	Too	Relaxed
24	Unsigned (Abbr.)	48	Mayo	Passel
25	Coffee bar order	49	Bridge ingredient	Mayo
29	Pickle holder	50	Swiss capital	16
30	Commuter's choice	DOWN	Prince of India	Bridge
31	Dos preceder	20	Night flier	19
32	"18 or older" provision	21	1	Swiss
34	Use scissors	22	Night flier	capital
		23	India	
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Solution time: 25 mins.

 Yesterday's answer 4-27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Austin Dillon, 28; Jenna-Louise Coleman, 32; Patrick Stump, 34; Ari Graynor, 35.

Happy Birthday: Don't worry about what others think or about those who are always trying to take without giving back. It's OK to say no and to move on from situations that are no longer good for you. Trust in your instincts, and follow the direction that offers positivity coupled with equality and new possibilities. Stand up for yourself and what you want. Your numbers are 7, 12, 16, 21, 28, 36, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An emotional situation regarding an elder or someone going through difficulties should be handled with wisdom; it's important to do what's right. The decisions you make will make a difference to an important relationship. Learn from the experience. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put a little more effort into the way you look and what you offer. Refuse to let an emotional drama cause you to make a choice you know isn't in your best interest. Avoid taking on too much or giving in to peer pressure. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can address emotional issues you have with partners, lovers, family and friends. Speak up and let others know how you feel, and you will be given enough feedback to make a wise decision regarding how to move forward. **★★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't argue. Back away before you get to a point of no return. Don't ruin what you have

because you are too stubborn to admit you are part of the problem. Do whatever it takes to keep the peace. **★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put emotion behind any discussion you get into; you will persuade others to see things your way. Offering something in return will ensure you get the help you need to succeed. Love and romance are featured. Make special plans. **★★★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotional issues will arise surrounding medical, financial and legal matters. Do your best to stay calm and reserved in your response to what others say or do. You'll gain more leverage if you offer solid solutions instead of making a fuss. **★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Talk through any issues that concern you. Working toward a common goal will ensure you come up with a plan that will satisfy you and those you live or work with. A heartfelt plea will be taken seriously. **★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Listen to what others have to say. Consider the pros and cons that come into play due to emotional interference from outsiders. Keep your opinions to yourself, and do what you feel will bring the best results. **★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Listen attentively and get all the information you can. Knowledge is powerful and will help you counter any interference someone tries to impose. Protect your reputation and position with intelligence and charm. Personal gains are likely. **★★★★**

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Refuse to let your emotions take over. Don't let anyone manipulate you or coerce you into doing anything. Once in a while, it's best to be a spectator instead of a participant. **★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put more effort into the way you look. A couple of updates will give you an image of success and confidence. Making positive changes at home or to the way you live will lift your spirits. Romance is highlighted. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take care of your responsibilities first so you can enjoy downtime with someone special. A financial gain or gift will come from an unexpected source. A creative project will motivate you to revisit an old goal. **★★★**

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, popular and kind. You are an inventive go-getter.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

5	3	4	6					
9	8	4		7				
1		9						
7	4		8					
6			3					
8								
5	3	4	7					
9	1	2	5					

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	5	3	7	4	1	9	6	8
7	1	8	9	6	3	2	4	5
9	4	6	2	8	5	7	3	1
1	9	2	6	5	7	4	8	3
6	8	7	1	3	4	5	2	9
5	3	4	8	2	9	1	7	6
3	7	5	4	9	8	6	1	2
4	6	9	3	1	2	8	5	7
8	2	1	5	7	6	3	9	4

Difficulty Level: ★★★★

4/27

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUDET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LET'S TALK ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA

H	P	F	O	R	U	M	S	N	A	P	C	H	A	T
A	M	I	S	K	N	I	L	T	E	T	A	E	R	C
S	O	L	N	E	S	I	T	R	E	V	D	A	C	E
H	D	T	I	T	N	S	E	T	A	G	I	V	A	N
T	E	E	S	K	E	W	E	R	A	H	S	I	M	N
A	R	R	E	O	E	R	O	N	L	I	N	E	P	O
G	N	D	V	F	P	S	E	S	O	P	A	C		
D	I	G	I	T	A	L	F	S	T	R	R	D	I	U
N	E	E	R	S	P	A	T	A	E	A	H	G	S	
E	B	L	A	I	G	U	G	T	S	T	G	W	N	T
T	U	I	L	E	M	R	B	W	A	U	T	E	A	O
W	T	F	B	B	A									

CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution:
Five o'clock shadow

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: AIR CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN

Job Description: Install, service and repair all types of air-conditioners, washers, refrigerators, dryers, water heater and car air conditioning system in residences or commercial establishments. Do other related duties as may be required by management.

Minimum Qualifications: With at least 2-years of relevant work experience.

Other Special Requirements: Must have EPA Certification as a Technician.

Job Site: Tun Segundo Street, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island

How to Apply: Submit or mail comprehensive resume and credentials to:

W&Z CORPORATION dba HAO'S AIR CONDITIONING

Office Address: Tun Segundo Street, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Telephone No.: (670) 285-0680

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501666, Saipan, MP

Email Address: haosairconditioning@gmail.com

OPENING DATE: APRIL 27, 2018

DATE CLOSED: MAY 12, 2018

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The Position: MAINTENANCE WORKER

Job Description: Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting; boiler making; insulating; welding; machining; carpentry; repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs.

Minimum Qualifications: With at least 2 years of relevant work experience.

Other Special Requirements: Knows and familiar with the fundamentals of maintaining buildings and houses.

Job Sites: Mt. Tapochao, Chalan Laulau, and Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island

How to Apply: Submit or mail comprehensive resume and credentials to:

EARHART, INC. Office Address: DHL Building, Chalan Laulau, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Telephone No.: (670) 234-1600

Mailing Address: PMB 822, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address: where_is_amalia@hotmail.com; michael_dotts@hotmail.com

OPENING DATE: APRIL 27, 2018
DATE CLOSED: MAY 12, 2018

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: BEAUTICIAN

Job Description: Provide beauty services, such as shampooing, cutting, coloring, and styling hair, and massaging and treating scalp. May apply makeup, dress wigs, performing hair removal, and provide nail and skin care services.

Minimum Qualifications: Must be at least high school graduate; With at least 2 years of relevant work experience.

Job Site: Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

How to Apply: Submit or mail comprehensive resume and credentials to:

EARHART, INC. Office Address: DHL Building, Chalan Laulau, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Telephone No.: (670) 234-1600

Mailing Address: PMB 822, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address: where_is_amalia@hotmail.com; michael_dotts@hotmail.com

OPENING DATE: APRIL 27, 2018
DATE CLOSED: MAY 12, 2018



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Minimum of three (3) years work experience as a cabinet maker and finishing carpentry. Experience in painting, quality control, cost control and safety related to maintenance. Have the ability to kneel, bend, carry, walk, stoop, climb and lift items. A High School diploma or higher is required. Must be able to work evenings / weekends / holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, May 11th, 2018.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: ELECTRICIAN

Job Description: Install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes. May install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems.

Minimum Qualifications: Must be at least high school graduate; With at least 2 years of relevant work experience. Must be knowledgeable and experience in installation of wirings, electrical equipment to meet specifications; Must have the ability to determine causes of operating errors and deciding what to do about it.

Job Site: Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

How to Apply: Submit or mail comprehensive resume and credentials to:

JRP ENTERPRISES, INC.

Office Address: Gualo Rai Building, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Telephone No.: (670) 235-6623

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 502636, Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address: mailto:dingfachen.dfc@gmail.com

OPENING DATE: APRIL 27, 2018

DATE CLOSED: MAY 12, 2018

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Verlander, Altuve help Astros beat Angels



HOUSTON

(AP)—Justin Verlander pitched seven sharp innings, AL MVP Jose Altuve hit his first home run of the season and the Houston Astros beat the Angels 5-2 on Wednesday, ending Los Angeles' road winning streak at a team record-tying 11.

Albert Pujols connected off Verlander for his 619th career homer. Pujols has 2,994 hits.

Alex Bregman hit a three-run double and Jake Marisnick homered as Houston avoided a three-game sweep. The Angels also won 11 straight road games in 1988.

Verlander (4-0) held the Angels hitless into the fifth inning. He gave up two runs and four hits, striking out nine without a walk. Verlander won his 11th regular-season decision in a row.

Indians 4, Cubs 1

In Cleveland, Indians reliever Andrew Miller exited with tightness in his hamstring in the win over Chicago and could miss a few days.

Miller grabbed the back of his leg after throwing two pitches to Anthony Rizzo in the seventh inning.

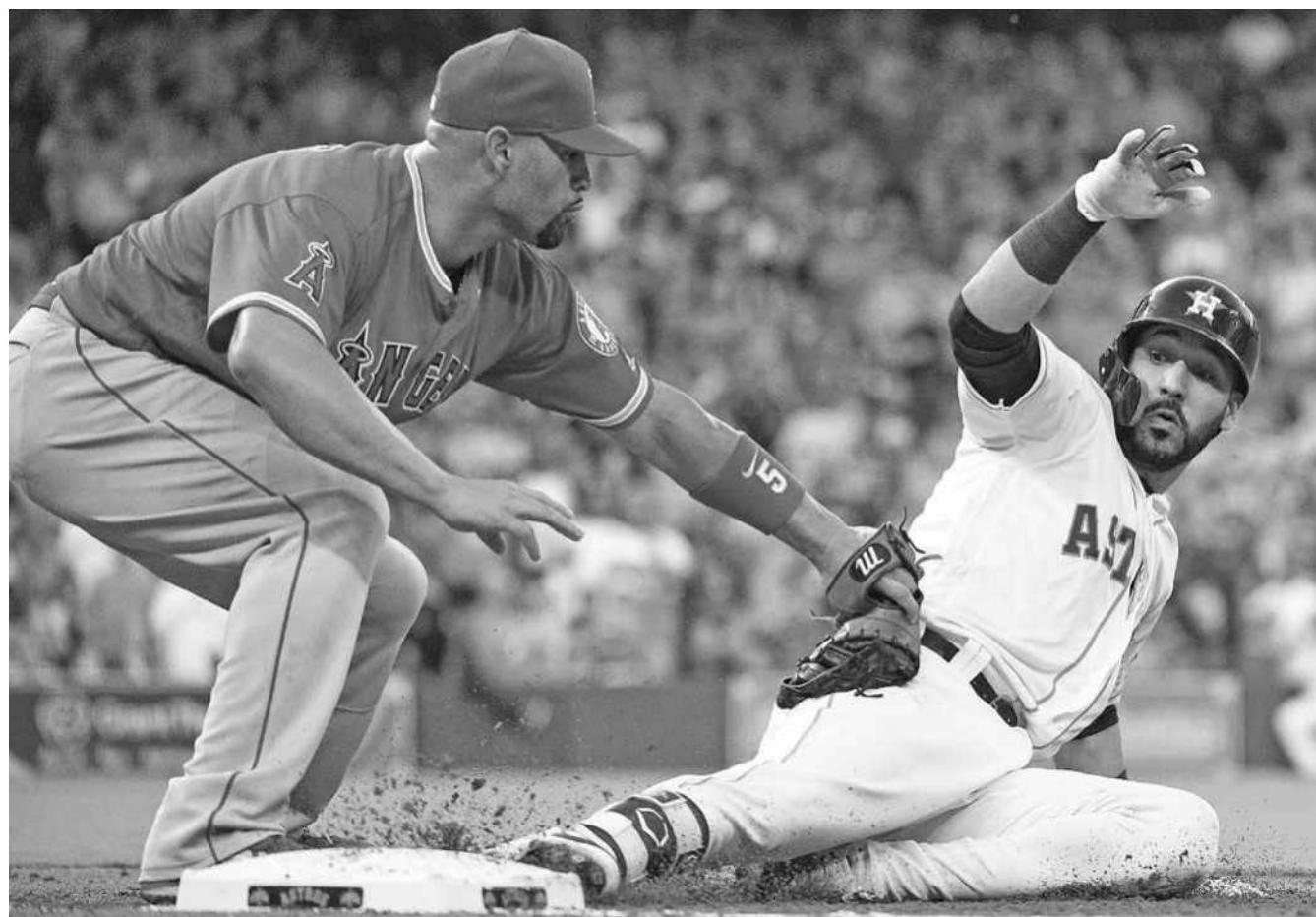
Rays 8, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, Rays lefty Jonny Venters returned to the majors after a six-year absence and his fourth major elbow surgery, retiring the lone batter he faced in a win over Baltimore.

The 33-year-old Venters has had three Tommy John surgeries. He was promoted from Triple-A earlier in the day, and got Chris Davis on a grounder.

Braves 5, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, prized prospect Ronald Acuna Jr. singled and scored the tying run in the eighth inning of his big league debut as



Atlanta beat Cincinnati.

The 20-year-old Acuna became the youngest player in the majors when he was called up from Triple-A before the game. He went 1 for 5 and played left field.

Marlins 8, Dodgers 6

In Los Angeles, Trevor Richards outpitched Clayton Kershaw just months removed from working as a substitute elementary school teacher, and Miami took advantage of a wild outing from the Dodgers ace.

Richards struck out 10 and pitched one-hit ball over 4 2/3 scoreless innings in his fifth major league start.

Brewers 6, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Jhoulys Chacin and the Milwaukee bullpen pitched the Brewers to their

eighth consecutive victory.

Chacin (2-1) did not allow a hit until two outs in the fourth. Brewers relievers combined for 3 1/3 scoreless innings, running their streak to 28 straight.

Yankees 7, Twins 4

In New York, Didi Gregorius homered for the fourth straight game and added two RBI to his major league-leading total, leading New York to its fifth win in a row at misty, foggy Yankee Stadium.

Tyler Austin hit a three-run shot and made a sparkling defensive play at first base to help send Minnesota to its sixth straight loss.

Red Sox 4, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Mookie Betts homered twice and drove in three runs as Boston snapped

its season-high three-game losing streak.

The Red Sox got their 18th win of the season, tying the franchise record for victories before May 1.

Phillies 5, Diamondbacks 3

In Philadelphia, Jake Arrieta outpitched Zack Greinke, Aaron Altherr hit a go-ahead three-run homer and Philadelphia topped Arizona.

Arrieta (3-0) allowed three runs—one earned—and four hits in seven innings.

Nationals 15, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Trea Turner got five hits, Matt Adams homered and drove in six runs, and the Washington broke out of an offensive funk in a big way, routing San Francisco to

end a four-game skid.

Andrew Stevenson had two doubles, two singles and four RBI as Washington set season highs for runs and hits (18).

Cardinals 9, Mets 1

In St. Louis, Marcell Ozuna hit a tiebreaking two-run single and Michael Wacha won his fourth straight start for St. Louis.

NFL Draft clouded with mystery



ARLINGTON, Texas—

Thick smoke screens and endless rumors, mock drafts changing by the minute, prospect stocks rising and fading so fast it would make your head spin.

This year's quarterback-loaded NFL draft is about as certain as the weather, leaving most experts merely guessing ahead of what should be an entertaining and unpredictable first round Thursday night at AT&T Stadium.

"There are a couple of wild cards in the draft in the top five with a couple of teams that no one has any idea what they're doing, and they have the ability to trade out," said UCLA quarterback Josh Rosen, one of the draft's top prospects.

"With this draft—I haven't really paid very close attention to any other drafts—it just seems like nobody has any idea what's going on."

Rumors have run the gamut for weeks of what the Browns will do at No. 1, and there was still plenty of debate on the eve of the draft. It seemed like a certainty for months USC quarterback Sam Darnold would go No. 1 until recently, when several reports claim Cleveland will pick between Wyoming quarterback Josh Allen and Oklahoma's Heisman Trophy signal-caller Baker Mayfield.

Most view the top prospects in the draft as versatile and dynamic Penn State running back Saquon Barkley—the player believed the Giants will take No. 2—and N.C. State edge

rusher Bradley Chubb. Rosen has reportedly tumbled down draft boards while Mayfield has risen, for the moment anyway.

"I've never seen anything like it. I have to fill out a mock draft tonight, and I'll take any and all suggestions," NFL Network analyst and former NFL scout Daniel Jeremiah said. "You're trying to build a house and you can't pour the foundation. You don't know who the first pick is going to be. So when you don't know who the first pick is going to be, it's a trickle-down effect. It can go in a million different ways."

The five quarterbacks are an interesting group, a much acclaimed and accomplished quintet who have been torn down during this long process, each roundly criticized for

different deficiencies. There are the injury concerns about Rosen, who suffered two concussions last year and had a shoulder ailment the year before that cost him several games. Accuracy issues and limited success against subpar competition with Allen. Questions about Lamar Jackson's ability to be a pocket passer in the NFL, with some even suggesting he should move to wide receiver. Darnold is viewed as the safest pick, but he was hardly impressive this fall for underachieving USC after starting the year as a Heisman Trophy favorite—and committed 36 turnovers in two seasons of action at the Pac-12 power, raising questions about his ceiling. Then there is Mayfield, a lightning rod with an outsized personality and doubts about his size at a generously listed 6-foot-1.

Instead, Madrid relied on Marcelo and halftime substitute Marco Asensio to produce a comeback after Bayern had gone in front through Joshua Kimmich.

Marcelo equalized before the interval against the run of play and Asensio then combined with Lukas Vazquez to claim a second away goal for Madrid 12 minutes into the second half.

The result puts the two-

Houston Astros' Marwin Gonzalez, right, is tagged out by Los Angeles Angels first baseman Albert Pujols on a pickoff during the second inning of a baseball game Wednesday, April 25, 2018, in Houston. AP

Jedd Gyorko added a two-run homer for the Cardinals, which has won nine of 11.

Mariners 4, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Mike Zunino homered and scored twice to back Seattle starter Felix Hernandez.

Zunino doubled and scored in a two-run third and gave the Mariners a 4-3 lead with a solo drive against James Shields (1-3) in the sixth.

Rockies 5, Padres 2

In Denver, Jon Gray struck out 11 in six innings and David Dahl lined a two-run triple, lifting Colorado past San Diego.

Gray (2-4) allowed three hits and walked one to break his three-game slide.

Rangers 4, Athletics 2

In Arlington, Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit a go-ahead single in the fifth inning and the Texas bullpen protected the lead.

Four Rangers relievers worked 4 1/3 hitless innings to stop Oakland's four-game winning streak.

Madrid beats Bayern to take control of semifinals

MUNICH (AP)—

For once, Real Madrid didn't need Cristiano Ronaldo to score.



After finding the net in every Champions League game this season, Ronaldo had to let others grab the spotlight on Wednesday as Madrid ended Bayern Munich's unbeaten record at home this season with a 2-1 win in the first leg of their Champions League semifinal.

The Portuguese star did beat Bayern goalkeeper Sven Ulreich with a spectacular effort in the second half, but what would have been his 16th Champions League goal of the campaign was ruled out for using his arm to control the ball.

Instead, Madrid relied on Marcelo and halftime substitute Marco Asensio to produce a comeback after Bayern had gone in front through Joshua Kimmich.

Marcelo equalized before the interval against the run of play and Asensio then combined with Lukas Vazquez to claim a second away goal for Madrid 12 minutes into the second half.

The result puts the two-

time defending champions in a favorable position before the second leg in Madrid next Tuesday, though Zinedine Zidane's side will be wary after conceding three goals at home to Juventus in the previous round.

"We've taken the first step," said Madrid captain Sergio Ramos, back to marshal his side's defense after serving a suspension against Juventus.

Bayern had to substitute the injured Arjen Robben and Jerome Boateng in the first half, but the side had plenty of chances to score more goals with Franck Ribery, Robert Lewandowski and Mueller all missing good opportunities.

"We didn't have as many big chances against Hannover last week. Real won 2-1 away, so they have the edge, but we'll throw everything into it," Kimmich said of the second leg.

Bayern, which is chasing a treble in Jupp Heynckes' last season in charge, was hoping to make up for last year's quarter-final exit to Madrid, and for the Spanish side's 5-0 aggregate win at the same stage in 2014.

Drillers crush Creepers in Flame Tree division

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The 6JMS Drillers made short work of the Amari's Creepers, 14-1, in last week's games in

the Flame Tree Thursday B Division of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association-Bud Light 2018 League.

The Drillers were in beast mode against their opponents

with Leo Wania posting the lone loss against Carl Hocog in one of the four Singles Regular Cricket events.

With the win against

the Creepers (53-82), the Drillers improved their record to 91-44 to remain within striking distance of the league-leading Jonny's Team

Kyodai (93-42), an 11-4 winner over the Naked Fish Ridin' Darry (90-45).

The Franken Boardmembers (71-64), Naked Fish Na'Gupu (67-68), Jonny's Real Deal (63-72), Jonny's Serial Killaz (51-84), Naked Fish Dartaholiks (50-85), and Naked Fish DNA Jump-It (46-89) complete the standings.

In other games, the Boardmembers scored a 10-5 win over the Na'Gupu, while the Real Deal completed a 9-6 decision against the Dartaholiks, and the Jump-It also came out with a 9-6 triumph versus the Serial Killaz.

Other Results MASTERS

- Mafia 10, Proofers 7
- Nakayoshi 10, Pythons 7

KONQER

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KONQER.

The top male and female finishers of the Enduro division in KONQER Saipan will have their entry fees waived for the Guam and Palau KONQER races. Sprint and Business leagues are the other signature divisions of KONQER.

"The top finishers in the men's and women's Enduro will have their entry free waived for both Guam and Palau KONQER. Also, business teams who place in the Top 3 spots will be invited to compete off-island as well," said Endo.

Early registrants had already reached 500, exceeding the 496 that participated in last year's KONQER King of the Hill held at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico.

Endo said they expect to have more participants coming in on race day, especially now that tourists are free to

A DIVISION

- Ridin' Darry 13, Roil Soil 4
- Strikers 13, Drunken Warriors 4
- Predators 9, Mafia I 8
- Scorpions 9, Gunners 8
- Terminators 9, 101 Proofers 8

TUESDAY B

- Mafia II 8, Chamberos 7
- Strikers 9, Petmalu Boyz 6

FANIHI B

- Mafia II 10, 80 Proofers 5
- Franken Warriors 9, Shaka 6
- Darty Minded 8, Bandits 7
- Pung Pang 8, Desaten II 7

C DIVISION

- Re-Darts 13, Wettzside 2
- Werpa 13, Like A G-4 2
- Bull-It 9, River Shots 6
- Dart Vaders 8, Bulldogs 7

join. Having tourists participate in the race is made possible through the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The MVA, as part of its sports tourism program, has included KONQER Saipan in its promotional package as tourists will be given the chance to experience the obstacle course race provided they bring their room key card and passport at the registration area.

"Let's see how this tourist thing shows up. It's still hard to gauge the turnout, but we expect some would come and try the obstacle course. It's always fun to have little experiments every year," said Endo.

"We will also have an inflatable obstacle course for the kids so they could kind of experience KONQER. We want to let the kids play and be active."

Participants of this Saturday's event can pick up their race packets today at the lobby of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan from 2pm to 6pm.

also meet with the coaches and managers at 5:30pm on Monday at the Gilber C. Ada Gymnasium's conference room for the selection of the members of the CNMI national team that would try to reclaim the gold the Commonwealth last won in 2006.

and Katrina Costales posted the pair of goals for the CNMI Women's U16 National Team.

Shirley's 5, PIC 3

Shirley's earned its second win after outclassing Pacific Islands Club.

Five different players contributed to Shirley's victory with Jeddah Peteru starting things off for the squad. Heng Guo Piao, Jerry Tan, Taro Goto, and Jun Liu were the scorers for Shirley's, while Albert Berganca registered all three goals for PIC.



Fiesta Resort beats Docomo Rollers



Cassandra Camacho scored 11 points to lead Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan to a 46-35 victory versus Docomo Rollers in the women's division game in the 2018 MIBF Island-wide Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Madi Alegre and Irish Pagara added 8 markers each to back up Camacho and deny the Docomo Rollers' bid to enter the win column.

With Fiesta Resort running a balance offense, it led at the end of each quarter to hand Docomo Rollers its fifth straight loss.

In the other women's division match this week, the Ol'Aces avenged their first round defeat to the Lady Ol'Aces after the former earned a 54-47 victory in last Monday's duel.

Annalei Santos scored 7 of the Ol'Aces 9 points in the fourth quarter to snap their opponent's five-game winning streak. Annalei finished with 20 points, while her sister Eleina chipped in 16 markers. Alliyah Fernandez made the other field goal of the Ol'Aces in the final canto to end up with 10 points.



JON PEREZ

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Irish Pagara is surrounded by Docomo Rollers defenders during their women's division game in the 2018 MIBF Island-wide Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Taz Deleon Guerrero paced the Lady Ol'Aces with her 16 points.

Meanwhile, the Genesis All-Stars and Casino won their respective matches in the men's division.

The Genesis All-Stars routed the Chalan Kanoa Ballers

last Monday, 97-65, while Casino downed the Saints last Wednesday, 89-78.

A 35-10 scoring surge in the first quarter sealed the deal for the Genesis All-Stars. Ken Vi-ray led the squad's jackrabbit start after firing 14 points in

the opening canto.

Meanwhile, Casino played better in the second half to steal the win from the Saints.

Sonny Marines dropped 15 of his 19 points in the last 20 minutes of play to hand Casino the double-digit win.

Maegan Smith and Jessme Jones will kick off the MMA matches, followed by young guns Corey San Nicolas and Junar Jesus' bout. John Mendiola of Luta Top Team will duel Angel Oliveras, Manny "The Kid" Camacho will collide with Don "Don Won" Julian, Austin John King of Team Tinian will test the skills of Andres "The Tanapag Beach Bad Boy" Camacho, and L.D.

Ogo of Luta Team will take on Napu "Fong Fung" Reyes also of Team Tinian.

Greg "Peskadude" Sasmamoto vs Wildon "The Beast" Camacho, Jboy Langu vs Kimo Adriano, and Austin "Auzzy Pete" Petrus vs Mark "The Dark" Nuique are the other featured fights. Jeff Mesa of Steel Athletics is a standby fighter with his opponent to be announced before the event.

also took only two sets to eliminate Park, 6-2, 7-5, and march into the title game.

Meanwhile, Elliot played in her first girls U14 singles event and topped the round-robin contest to get 1,500 ranking points—the third best in the field behind the 1,900 of JC Ferrer and 1,875 of Annika Camacho.

Ferrer is slightly ahead of Camacho in the division rankings, as the former earlier won the TanHoldings Classic to get 1,000 points, while the latter

settled for the runner-up honors and 760 points. Eva Kim got 750 points for placing fourth in last weekend's tournament.

In the U10 division, Irin notched her second title after outclassing Anna Kwon last Sunday, 8-6. With her additional 1,500 points and the 1,000 she won in the TanHoldings tournament, Irin's 2500 total gave her the No. 1 spot in the rankings. She leads Anna Kwon (1,875), Saorin Oh (1,500), Savita Sikkel (750), and Anne Lee (600).

ALL

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to get his first win, is also attempting to bring the featherweight title back to Russia when he challenges Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez in the main event.

Koreans Seung Jun Lee, Sang Hyun Park, and Park Jeon Seung will each face Bradley Jepen, Vince "The

Clinch" Masga, and Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez in three of the 14 mixed martial arts bouts offered in tonight's event.

Two boxing matches will open ROP 23 with Guam independent fighters Jom Ebo and Jason Hernandez each meeting Team Zalaka's Bradlee "Kaboom" Manalo and Jacob Ilo. Eric "Young Asap" Lacambra will face C.J. Hofschneider in a kickboxing match.

Serin Chung (2,850), Dana Lee (2,075), runner-up Ye Jin Son (1,875), Hoo Wang (1,525), and Hye Jin Elliot (1,250).

Kim got additional 375 points when she and Lee ruled the round-robin doubles play after beating sisters Serin and Irin Chung last Sunday, 7-5, 6-3. In the singles event, Kim downed Bomee Park in their battle for third place, 8-3, while Serin won in the finals against Son, 6-1, 6-2. The No. 1 seed Kim was stunned by Serin in the semis, 6-4, 7-5, while Son

also took only two sets to eliminate Park, 6-2, 7-5, and march into the title game.

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KIM

From Page 36

Heras after ousting Coume, 6-2, 6-0. Heras also defeated Tan in the 2017 TanHoldings Tennis Classic to gain 1,000 ranking points.

In the girls U12, Kim finished only third in the singles play, but her 900 points in that event and 375 in the doubles were enough to land her at the top spot in the division rankings. Kim has earned 3,025 points to place ahead of last week's champion

DIVISION

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scored against KFAS.

SUN PALACE 6, WNT U16 2

Sun Palace and the CNMI Women's U16 National Team tied for third to fourth place after the former prevailed in the second game in the division.

Guo Hua Hou and Jack Phan made two goals each for Sun Palace, while Daniel Pablo and Brian Lubao chipped in one apiece. Lilian Podziewski

Division leaders stretch streak in M-League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 MP United Football Club extended its winning run to sixth after topping Kanoa FC, 5-1, in the Division A game in the 2018 Spring M-League last Sun-

day at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Sunjoon Tenorio powered MP United to the easy victory after making four goals. He started his string of goals in the 24th minute, while his later three were recorded in the 41st, 57th, and 79th. Anthony Fruit scored the other



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI U16 Women's National Team's Jimmy Tang, fourth left, successfully steals the ball from Sun Palace's Daniel Pablo, second left, during their Division B game in the 2018 Spring M-League last Sunday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

SBL hopes to end extended season before Micro Games

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan Baseball League coordinator Tony Rogolifo is hoping Mother Nature cooperates so they could finish the 2018 season at least two weeks before the 9th Micronesian Games in Yap kicks off.

The league has extended its season and the second round of elimination began last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield with Go See Mark shooting for its ninth win in as many games against the Blue Jays. Play, however, was discontinued after a heavy downpour made the field unplayable.

With the match rained-out, GSM and the Chalan Kanoa Bears are still tied for the lead, as they hold identical 8-1 records. The Falcons and the Mariners are also in a deadlock for second place with similar 6-3 marks and are followed by Titanium (5-4), and the defending champion Current CNMI-Pacific Insurance Aces (4-5). The Blue Jays and Ballistics, who have 3-6 cards, Indians (1-8), and Outlaws (0-9) complete the standings.

"Hopefully, Mother Nature will be kind to us so there won't be any cancelled games. We wanted to finish



tering the rainy season, so hopefully it would not rain at night so we could finish

within or ahead of our schedule," said Rogolifo.

GSM was enjoying a 6-0 lead at the bottom of the third and was up to bat when the game was halted.

This was the second rained-out match this season after the scheduled meeting between the C.K. Bears and the Falcons last April 18 was called off. The game was played last Tuesday with the Bears rallying for a 5-4 win.

Matches continued yesterday with the Aces set to duel Titanium and the latter aiming for a repeat after scoring a 14-11 win against the defending champs earlier. Tonight, the Mariners will face the Ballistics with the former

hoping to sweep their opponents this season following a 13-3 triumph last Feb. 26.

If SBL moves ahead with its original schedule, the best-of-three playoffs would begin on July 2 with the finals set almost a week before the July 15 opening of the Micro Games.

"We're hoping the weather cooperates. We're en-

See SBL on Page 34



JON PEREZ

A current CNMI-Pacific Insurance Aces player waits at third base, while his teammate is up to bat during their first round game against the Mariners in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The league's regular season has been extended, keeping the Aces' title defense bid alive.

goal for MP United, drawing first blood in the third minute of the one-sided game. Josh David Josen registered the lone goal for Kanoa, which remained at the bottom of the team standings with its 0-2-4 win-draw-loss record.

MP United, with its 6-0 mark, kept the top spot, ahead of TanHoldings (5-1-0), Paire (2-1-3), Okadaya (2-1-3), Teen Ayuyus (1-3-3), and Winners & Pacific (0-2-3).

TanHoldings 2, Teen Ayuyus 1

TanHoldings is still breathing down MP United's neck following a close win over the Teen Ayuyus.

Martin Jambor drilled both goals for TanHoldings with his go-ahead posted in the 78th minute. He had his first goal in the 27th minute, while Aloyzeus Angeles made the equalizer for the Teen Ayuyus in the 48th.

Okadaya 4, Paire 3

Okadaya also pulled off a victory against Paire in the second game in the division.

Kosuke Sato earned a pair of goals with his shot in the 72nd minute giving Okadaya the insurance. He got his first goal in the 55th minute, while Dong Geun Kim and Kosuke Kimura scored the other goals for Okadaya in the 20th and 50th, respectively.

Jonathan Takano duplicated

DIVISION B KFA 7, Matansa 2

Korean Football Association on Saipan notched its seven win in as many games after dominating Matansa last Sunday at the Koblerville Elementary School Ballfield.

Juan Oh had a hat trick in the lopsided victory, while Edwin Kim and Oliver Lee posted two each for KFA, which is way ahead of Matansa (4-1-2), Sun Palace (3-1-2), the CNMI Women's U16 National Team (3-1-3), Shirley's (2-0-5), and Pacific Islands Club (0-1-6).

Matansa absorbed its second loss after only Amzad Khan and Kamrul Kamrul

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NMIFA holds AFC Grassroots Football Day on May 19

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will be holding the AFC Grassroots Football Day on May 19 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The event is aimed at bolstering the CNMI's grassroots program and to join the Asian Football Confederation in its quest to continue pushing for the development of the sport among the young generation in the region.

"May 15 is 'AFC Grassroots Football Day' as defined by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) in 2013. In cooperation with members associations, including NMIFA, AFC organizes commemorative festivals around this day to further develop soccer at the grassroots level across Asia," NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita said.

Since May 15 falls on a school day, NMIFA decides to move the event on a weekend to attract more participants and give them more time to enjoy the festivities.

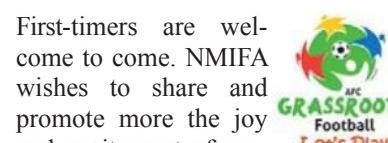
Mita said they are looking to have as much as 120 players (boys and girls), who are born in 2011 and 2012.

"We are organizing activities that are fun for these kids, regardless of their experience.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An MP United Football Club player, left, uses his body to protect the ball from TanHoldings defenders during a scrimmage in the U6 division of the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League. Players in the 6 and 7-year-old age groups are invited to attend next month's AFC Grassroots Football Day.



First-timers are welcome to come. NMIFA wishes to share and promote more the joy and excitement of soccer and exercise among kids and this part of our grassroots program is very important to us," the NMIFA official said.

"There is limited space available and participants are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. So those who

are interested, please contact NMIFA as soon as possible. Let's celebrate the Grassroots Football Day and have fun," Mita said.

Registration forms are available at the NMIFA office at the TSL Plaza in Garapan and can also be obtained from NMIFA-member clubs and send to playsoccer@nmifa.com. Players should wear proper attire during the event.

Youth festival tomorrow

Meanwhile the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth Festival will take place tomorrow at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Matches in the co-ed U9, U11, and U13 (non-competitive) will start as early as 8:30am and will run until 1pm. Each game will be played in two 15-minute halves with a five-minute break.



Verlander, Altuve
help Astros
beat Angel

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Saipan Tribune Sports

LeBron blocks
shot, hits winning
3-pointer at buzzer

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Helen Kim gets ready for a return during the 2017 TanHoldings Tennis Classic. Kim is ahead in the girls U12 rankings.

Kim, Heras ahead in jr. rankings

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Isabel Heras and Helen Kim had contrasting fortunes in last week's 2018 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships, but earned similar rankings at the conclusion of the Northern Marianas Islands Tennis Association-organized tournament.

Heras ruled the girls U18 event of the competition to get additional 1,500 points, bringing her total to 2,500 and putting her on top of the division rankings. The 16-year-old player is ahead of Tania Tan (2,075), Coume Kaga (1,500), Malika Miyawaki (1,500), Maria Gregoire (900), and Conatsu Kaga (850).

A 6-0, 6-1 victory over Tan in last weekend's event gave Heras the No. 1 spot in the division rankings. She made it to the finals following a 6-1, 6-0 triumph over Miyawaki, who moved into the Final Four after eliminating Gregoire, 6-3, 6-2. Tan, on the other hand, set up a title showdown against

See KIM on Page 34

RITES OF PASSAGE 23 BEATDOWN IN SUSUPE TOWN

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Barring any last-minute changes, tonight's Rites of Passage 23: Beatdown is expected to be another explosive event with fans expecting 18 exciting fights at the Marianas Business Plaza.

Off-island fighters Andrei "The Venus Project" Zaitsev and South Korean fighters Seung Jun Lee, Sang Hyun Park, and Park Jeon Seung have already arrived and were present in yesterday's weigh-in.

Zaitsev, aside from aiming

KONQER: Every year is an experiment

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Fly Trap, Spider Web, and Tarzan Falls are some of the new obstacles that will be introduced in this edition of KONQER, aside from the 20-plus feet wall called The Monster. Tarzan Falls is an obstacle that has swivel cables and features different sizes and lengths.

D.R. Safety Consultant, a constructor and safety equipment firm based in Barrigada in Guam, has been busy building the obstacles since early this week.

"So, the participants can expect new obstacles and new challenges. We also want everyone to have fun and at the same time to be careful," said Endo, who added that this year's circuit is called Guts & Glory that followed 2017's Divide &

See KONQER on Page 34

All set for tonight's 'Beatdown'



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Trench Tech's Cuki Alvarez, second left, poses with off-island fighters who will see action in tonight's Passage 23: Beatdown at the Marianas Business Plaza.



JON PEREZ
A worker of the Guam-based DR Safety Consultant spray paints one of the obstacles for tomorrow's KONQER Saipan at the Kilili Beach Park in Susupe.